ISSN 0229-0103

AARDVARK-VANAHEIM PRESENTS

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32
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Dave and Deni met December 16, 1976.
They married October 6, 1978.
Separated August 20, 1983.
Divorced August 1986.

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in the letters, ads and archive pages are null and void!
IT'S, LIKE, 30 YEARS AGO, EH?

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A Note from the Publisher

This issue I'm having a bit of trouble trying to write this note to you. Three times now I've gotten up and done some needling little thing (moved curtains, made coffee, etc.) because I couldn't sit down to write this. The Diamondback Decks are now going out to our distributors. If you are one of those first 150 people who joined the fan club, they will be going out from this address in another week or so. I'm still waiting for the mailing envelopes.

Bob Rittinger has been receiving a few letters of inquiry from people who want to know where they can get Cerebus. Bob writes articles for various people for us and isn't involved with the distribution end of Cerebus at all. If you have these sort of questions, or want subscriptions, Harry Kremer's ad for Now & Then Books has been in Cerebus for quite a while. I suggest you write to him for ordering information. I can't tell you if a store in your area carries Cerebus -- as that is our distributors' job. Your best bet is to ask your local comic shop if he will look into taking Cerebus. Our distributors are listed right here on this page.

Swords of Cerebus Volume Three should be out to the distributors and shops by the end of November. In fact, it should be out about the same time this issue is. It will reprint issues 9, 10, 11 and 12 and has a short story in the back that Dave did with Gene Day (a friendship that goes back a long way), called "What Happened Between Issues 20 and 21". Since everyone was asking Dave that question, it seemed obvious that he would have to answer it sooner than he had planned.

A short note from fan club president Fred Patten: Membership for the "Friends of Cerebus" fan club will need to go up to eight dollars for a one-year membership. The reason for this is that when Fred first set the rate he went by what he thought it would cost, just looking to meet the costs of the newsletters (four times a year) and the "goodies" that come with each newsletter. However, as with most things these days, he has found the cost of everything to be more than was expected. I hope that this increase will not deter any of you who were going to join the club or renew your membership, as I have been impressed with the quality of the work Fred is doing. I've heard from him that the next newsletter is going to be quite long and should include a lot more prose as well as the art that has been so enjoyable. Dave and I get a real kick out of that newsletter because it's a way of seeing other people's views of Cerebus.

Well, I think I've covered everything -- oh yes! An aside to our readers in England: I've been getting quite a few letters complaining how hard it is to get Cerebus in England and Europe. Starting with this issue -- Titan Distributors (in London, England) will be taking Cerebus from one of our distributors. So if you run a shop -- or know someone who does, pass the word on. Hope that it will help bridge that gap the Atlantic seems to create for us.

That's it for now -- see you all next month!!

Deni

CEREBUS

VOL. 1 NO. 32 NOVEMBER, 1981

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knock knock

I'M FROM THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE, *M'LORD...*

TARIM.

IT'S PROBABLY ABOUT HADDEN'S *CONTRACT*

WHAT CAN CEREBUS TELL THEM?

WHY NOT TRY THE *TRUTH?*

CERTAINLY A *NOVEL* SUGGESTION

BUT CEREBUS NEEDS SOMETHING MORE *EFFECTIVE* ...

THE PRIME MINISTER WISHES TO REASSURE THE GOVERNMENT OF PALNU THAT THERE IS NO MALICE IMPLIED BY HIS DECISION TO...

WHY DON'T YOU SAVE US BOTH SOME *AGGRAVATION* AND JUST GIVE CEREBUS THE BOTTOM LINE...

YES, M'LORD. IF YOU DON'T COME UP WITH THE CONTRACT *OR* THE TWELVE THOUSAND CROWNS, WE'RE GOING TO THROW YOU TO THE *INQUISITION.*

CEREBUS NEEDS A HALF-HOUR TO THINK ABOUT IT...

THE PRIME MINISTER IS WAITING IN HIS CARRIAGE DOWNSTAIRS

I'LL ASK HIM IF THAT'S ALL RIGHT.

WOW! THIS REALLY PUTS YOU IN A MESS, DOESN'T IT? IF YOU DON'T GIVE THEM THE CONTRACT, THEY'LL GIVE YOU TO THE INQUISITION...

AND IF YOU **DO** GIVE THEM THE CONTRACT, THE INQUISITION WILL HAVE YOU ARRESTED...

FOR YOUR INVOLVEMENT IN HOLLAND M. HADDEN'S DEATH

HMM.

I HAVE TO ADMIT I'M **STUMPED** ON THIS ONE.

SO WHAT **ARE** YOU GOING TO DO?

HMM?

CEREBUS?

UM. ELF? CEREBUS HAS TO DO SOME THINKING ON THAT, ACTUALLY...

...BY HIMSELF. CEREBUS DOESN'T WISH TO APPEAR...

...**RUDE** OR ANYTHING...

AT LEAST HE WAS LEARNING TO SUPPRESS HIS TEMPER. HE HAD HAD ONE ELF MAD AT HIM, ONCE, WHILE STUDYING IN IMESH. IT WAS AN UNPLEASANT EPISODE HE WAS NOT EAGER TO RELIVE...

FOR NOW, HE COULD ONLY TRY TO STAY CALM THROUGH IT ALL

AND HOPE THAT THE ELF FINDS SOME TROLLS OR SOMETHING TO PLAY WITH

RIGHT NOW, HE HAD ONLY MINUTES TO SOLVE AN INSOLUBLE PROBLEM ...THE PRIME MINISTER'S MAN HADN'T EVEN MENTIONED THE DEATH OF THE INQUISITION PRIEST...

...IF THE MAN DIDN'T KNOW ABOUT IT, CEREBUS COULD BE IN EVEN MORE DANGER VERY SHORTLY.

ALL BECAUSE OF THAT DAMNED BUG! ALL BECAUSE OF...

...YOU!

I APOLOGIZE FOR BREAKING INTO YOUR SUITE, BUT I'M AFRAID IT WAS ***NECESSARY***...

I'VE A *BUSINESS PROPOSITION* TO OFFER YOU.

BUSINESS PROPOSITION?!

YOU ***KNOW*** WHAT YOU CAN ***DO*** WITH YOUR DAMNED BUSINESS PROPOSITION!!

BUG!!

TYRANT!!

EAT CARPET, TYRANT!

KNOCK KNOCK

YOU HEAR THAT, COOTIE?! IT'S THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE, ABOUT TO TURN CEREBUS OVER TO THE INQUISITION!!

AND YOU HAVE A BUSINESS PROPOSITION?!

GK!

CEREBUS WILL ...

HE DOESN'T HAVE A BUSINESS PROPOSITION.

I HAVE A BUSINESS PROPOSITION.

TELL THEM YOU'RE AUTHORIZING A THREE PER CENT INCREASE IN TARIFFS ON PALNAN GOODS ENTERING IEST...

TARIFFS?

YOU THINK IT WILL WORK?

OF COURSE.

I'M SORRY, M'LORD-- THE PRIME MINISTER INSISTS ON YOUR...

CEREBUS AUTHORIZES A THREE PER CENT INCREASE IN TARIFFS ON PALNAN GOODS ENTERING IEST--**OKAY?!**

ARTEMIS.

ARTEMIS, *DARLING*, IT'S TIME FOR YOU TO WAKE UP, *NOW*... ARTEMIS?

YOU HAVE *SOME* FURNITURE TO ***REARRANGE*** ...

MM?

OH. YES.

THE PRIME MINISTER AGREES TO YOUR TERMS, *M'LORD*...

SORRY TO HAVE CAUSED YOU ANY *TROUBLE*.

NO TROUBLE!

NO TROUBLE AT **ALL!!**

THEY'RE GONE.

WHERE'S THE **BUG?**

YOU'RE WELCOME.

I TOLD HIM TO GO AWAY UNTIL I NEED HIM AGAIN.

CEREBUS THOUGHT YOU COULDN'T **CONTROL** THE MOON ROACH...

I'M AFRAID I LIED TO YOU ABOUT THAT

I'VE LIED TO YOU ABOUT A GREAT **MANY** THINGS...

THAT'S ALL OVER WITH, *NOW.*

I'M GOING TO MAKE YOU AN **EMBARASSINGLY** WEALTHY AARDVARK

YOU'LL LIKE THAT, I'M **SURE!** I WILL WARN YOU, NOW, THAT I AM USED TO BEING OBEYED. MAKING YOU WEALTHY IS A MEANS TO AN END FOR MY ORGANIZATION... IF YOU *COOPERATE*, WE'LL ALL GET WHAT WE WANT. IF YOU CHOOSE TO FIGHT ME, YOU WILL VERY PROBABLY WIND UP **DEAD.**

I REALIZE THAT YOU WISH TO KNOW MORE, AND I WILL ACCOMODATE YOU... UP TO A POINT.

YOU HAVE MY PERMISSION TO ASK ANY FIVE QUESTIONS YOU WISH TO HAVE **ANSWERED...**

HEY! WHERE DID THAT DOORWAY COME FROM...?

THIS DOORWAY HAS BEEN HERE FOR COUNTLESS ***GENERATIONS***. IT WAS CONSTRUCTED BY THE LABOUR OF ***ENSLAVED*** PIGTS.

IT LEADS TO A SMALL ANTECHAMBER WITH A FEW MODEST FURNISHINGS ...

FOR THE SAKE OF *PROPRIETY*, I WILL USE IT FOR MY *BEDROOM* WHILE I AM ASSISTING YOU...

SINCE YOU DIDN'T KNOW IT WAS HERE...

...

I SHANT IMAGINE YOU WOULD HAVE ANY OBJECTIONS ***WHATSOEVER.***

YOU HAVE FOUR QUESTIONS LEFT...

EVEN AS THE SLIDING PANEL CLICKS INTO PLACE...

THE EARTH-PIG HAS BEGUN TO FORMULATE HIS SECOND QUESTION.

SO, WHAT IS IT THAT YOU WISH TO KNOW?

THERE ARE A LOT OF *POWERFUL* AND *RICH* MEN IN PALNU...

CAREER BUREAUCRATS WITH A LOT OF *KNOW-HOW*...

EVEN AFTER A FORTNIGHT, CEREBUS ONLY *VAGUELY* UNDERSTOOD HOW THE CITY WORKED...

SO WHY DID LORD JULIUS *DO* IT?

WHY DID HE MAKE *CEREBUS* KITCHEN STAFF SUPERVISOR?

BECAUSE THAT WAS LORD JULIUS' FIRST JOB IN GOVERNMENT ...

I SUSPECT THAT HE IS PLAYING A RATHER ODD JOKE ON *ESTARCION SOCIETY* -- IMPLYING THAT HE IS GROOMING YOU AS HIS SUCCESSOR.

...WHO KNOWS? PERHAPS HE'S *SINCERE* ABOUT IT.

IT MIGHT EVEN BE WORTH YOUR WHILE TO GO BACK TO *PALNU* AND STAKE YOUR CLAIM...

DEFINITELY NOT! ALL CEREBUS WANTS IS MORE MONEY THAN ANYONE ELSE HAS. AND THERE'S ***PLENTY*** OF MONEY...

ASTORIA!

ARTEMIS, *DARLING.*

WHAT ***IS*** IT?

...RIGHT ***HERE.***

WAS I SUPPOSED TO DROP THIS ON THE EXPLOITIVE ***ASSISTANT*** IMPORTS ADMINISTRATOR ...

...OR ON THE EXPLOITIVE ***EXECUTIVE*** IMPORTS ADMINISTRATOR

THE EXECUTIVE IMPORTS ADMINISTRATOR

I ***TOLD YOU SO!***

SHUT UP, KEVITCH.

AREN'T YOU GOING TO ASK ME WHAT THAT WAS ABOUT?

CEREBUS ONLY HAS THREE QUESTIONS LEFT AS IT IS...

NICE ***TRY,*** THOUGH

FOR NINE DAYS CEREBUS WATCHES IN FASCINATION AS ASTORIA WRITES HUNDREDS OF LETTERS, ADDRESSES APPLICATIONS AND PETITIONS, COMPOSES CONTRACTS AND RECORDS TRANSACTIONS! MESSENGERS, AT ALL HOURS, DELIVER AND PICK UP ENORMOUS AMOUNTS OF CASH IN ORDINARY ENVELOPES...

AT LAST, UNABLE TO HIDE HIS CURIOUSITY ANY LONGER, THE EARTH-PIG ASKS HIS THIRD QUESTION...

"IS CEREBUS **RICH**, YET?"

"HOW MUCH DO YOU WANT RIGHT NOW?" IS ASTORIA'S ONLY REPLY. CEREBUS PAUSES TO THINK.

"A THOUSAND CROWNS."

"HERE."

AS HE COUNTS THE BANK NOTES, CEREBUS WONDERS WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO MAKE HIM POOR **THIS** TIME...

WOW!

THAT'S A LOT OF MONEY!

WHERE'D YOU GET IT?

A WOMAN NAMED ASTORIA ...

SHE'S HELPING CEREBUS WITH HIS BUSINESS DEALS.

ASTORIA!?!

BOY--I'D TRUST HER ABOUT AS FAR AS I COULD THROW HER..

CEREBUS KNEW THIS WAS GOING TO HAPPEN

EVERY TIME CEREBUS GETS A FEW CROWNS, SOMETHING HAPPENS!!

EVERY TIME!!

CEREBUS FINALLY FINDS SOMEONE WHO KNOWS WHAT THEY'RE DOING...

AND NOW HE FINDS OUT SHE CAN'T BE TRUSTED...!

YOU DON'T HAVE TO TAKE IT SO *HARD.*

RIGHT! SURE! CEREBUS JUST LOST THE ONLY PERSON WHO CAN GET HIM AS MUCH MONEY AS HE *WANTS...*

EITHER THAT OR HE'D HAVE TO RISK THE *INQUISITION* FINDING OUT SHE'S HERE.

THAT'S *ALL* CEREBUS NEEDS. TO BE FOUND CONSORTING WITH A... A...

WHAT IS SHE ANYWAY?

...A DRUG SMUGGLER?

I DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT HER ...

... EXCEPT, I GET THIS SORTA CREEPY FEELING WHENEVER I SEE HER.

... SORTA...

... CREEPY?...

FEELIN'?

DON'T GET MAD AT AN ELF.

ANYWAY, IF YOU *DO* HAVE TO GET RID OF HER, YOU CAN COMPOSE YOUR *OWN* LETTERS...

YOU'RE REALLY *GOOD* AT COMPOSITION ...

DON'T GET MAD AT AN ELF.

DON'T GET MAD AT AN ELF.

YOU'RE ONLY SAYING THAT BECAUSE YOU THINK YOU'RE SO HOT!!

EEP!

WELL!!

UH-OH.

THERE'S SOMETHING I HAVE TO TALK OVER WITH YOU... THE LEGISLATURE IS DEBATING WHETHER OR NOT TO TO ACCEPT YOUR OFFER...

THEY'VE BEEN PUSHING FOR A RAISE IN THE TARIFFS FOR SEVERAL YEARS NOW BUT THERE IS SOME QUESTION INVOLVED THAT COULD CAUSE US TROUBLE.

THE ELF WAS MAD. AT **HIM.** CEREBUS WAS SURE OF IT. SOMEHOW SHE HAD FIGURED OUT THAT HE WAS MAD. AT **HER.**

AND SURE AS TARIM'S JUDGEMENT SHE WAS OUT THERE **SOMEWHERE.** PLOTTING REVENGE.

KNOCK KNOCK

WHO CAN *THAT* BE?

YES?

PACKAGE FOR CEREBUS, MA'AM...

EDMONDS, LORD FRANCIS... THAT'S VERY ODD...

NEVER HEARD OF HIM...

HE WOULD JUST HAVE TO KEEP HIS EYES OPEN. BECAUSE WHEN THE ELF DID DECIDE TO STRIKE...

...IT WOULD BE SOMETHING GUARANTEED TO CAUSE THE EARTH-PIG NO **END** OF TROUBLE.

EDMONDS? LORD FRANCIS.

E... L...

MUST BE ONE OF THOSE *EXPATRIATE* ...

HEY!

CEREBUS!

WHAT IN THE WORLD DID YOU DO THAT...

KLICK-KLAK

PAPAL DIRECTIVE THIRTY SEVEN AUTHORIZES PRIESTS OF THE HOLY ORDER OF MORAL INQUISITORS TO ENTER ANY RESIDENCE IN THE MOST HOLY CITY-STATE OF IEST...

... IF A PRIEST OF THE HOLY ORDER DEEMS THERE TO BE REASONABLE CAUSE TO SUSPECT THAT SAID RESIDENCE IS BEING USED IN THE COMMISSION OF ANY CRIME AGAINST THE LAWS OF IEST, OR THE MORAL PRECEPTS OF THE SACRED CHURCH OF THE LIVING TARIM...

WE HAVE RECEIVED A MESSAGE THAT THERE ARE FIVE KILOGRAMS OF ILLICIT NARCOTICS ON THE PREMISES...

...M'LORD.

ASTORIA, *DEAR*.. IT SEEMS A LITTLE ***CHILLY*** IN HERE. WOULD YOU MIND...

...STIRRING THE FIRE A BIT?

WHAT?

OH.

AN ORDER-IN-COUNCIL FROM THE OFFICE OF *HIS HOLINESS* SIGNED THIS DATE, AUTHORIZING THE TEMPORARY SUSPENSION OF YOUR DIPLOMATIC ***IMMUNITY***...

PENDING A THOROUGH SEARCH OF THESE PREMISES BY A DULY SWORN MEMBER OF THE HOLY ORDER OF MORAL INQUISITORS... ***M'LORD?***

SMASH

CRACK

SMASH

SWAP

BASH

SMAK

YES--EVERYTHING SEEMS TO BE IN ORDER.

HOW'S THE FIRE COMING, ASTORIA?

ORDER in COUNCIL

:KOFF:

I THINK IT'S :KOFF:.. FINE. JUST...

...FINE,

CRACK

KA-SNAP

IN THAT CASE, *FATHER* ...

FEEL FREE TO HAVE A LOOK AROUND.

LATER...

IT WOULD **SEEM** THAT OUR INFORMATION IS *INACCURATE*...

IF YOU WILL EXCUSE US, THEN, FATHER ...

COLOURS!

KLIK KLAK

R'THEY **GONE?**

YEAH.

OH, GOOD...

HEY!

ARE YOU SICK OR SOMETHING?

SICK?

NO.

NO.

I THINK I J'ST BREATHED IN TOO MUCH

WHILST I WAS BURNIG THE PACKAGE ...

IT WAS AN ***ACCIDENT.*** TRY TO NOT GET ***UPSET...***

WHO'S UPSET...?

YOU SHOULD LIE DOWN FOR A WHILE

OKAY, BUT ONLY IF YOU LIE DOWN ***WITH*** ME...

JUST TRY TO ***RELAX***, ASTORIA...

IF I RELAX ANY *MORE*, I'LL START ***DROOLING*** ...

WHY DON'T WE LIE DOWN RIGHT ***HERE?***

ASTORIA! QUIT KIDDING AROUND! THIS IS...

MMPH!

ASTORIA! WHAT ARE YOU...

...DOING?! HAVE YOU GONE...

OUCH!!

STOP BITING CEREBUS' NECK THIS INSTANT!!

STOP IT, ASTORIA

RIGHT NOW

OR CEREBUS IS GOING TO HAVE TO HURT YOU...

OOOOH! THAT SOUNDS LIKE FUN!

SMASH!

WHAT'S
GOING ON
HERE?

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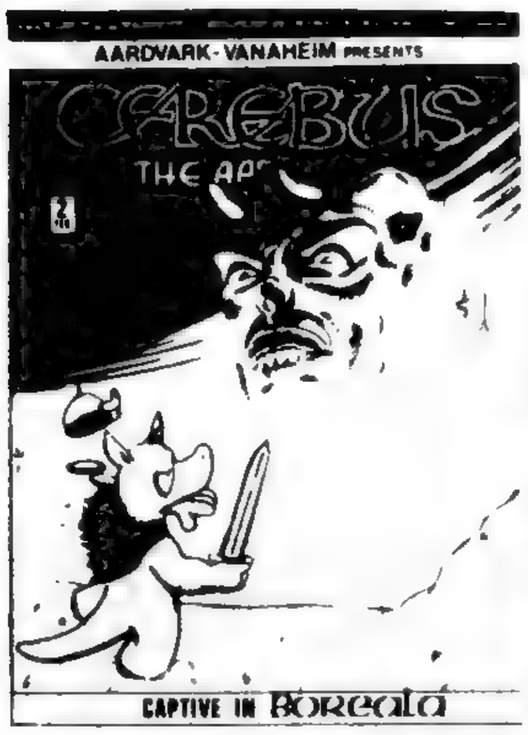

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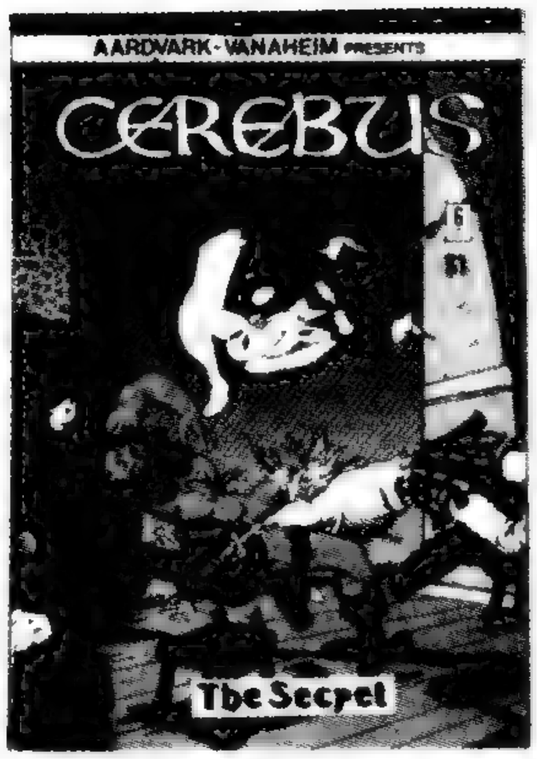

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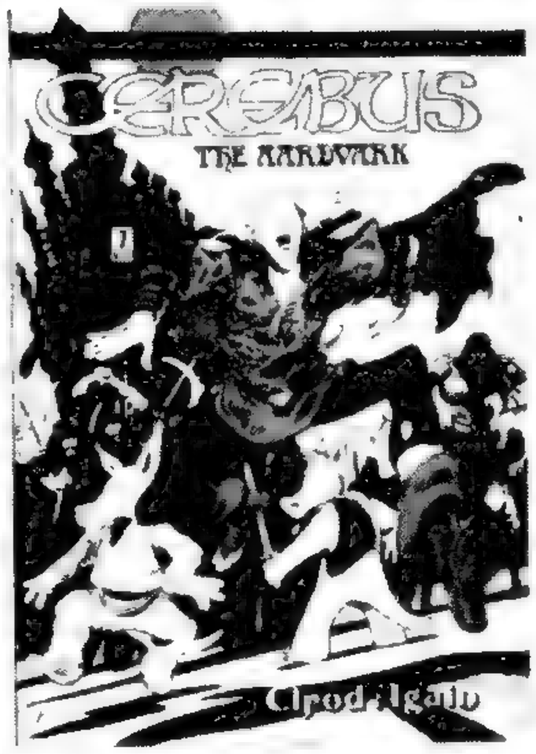

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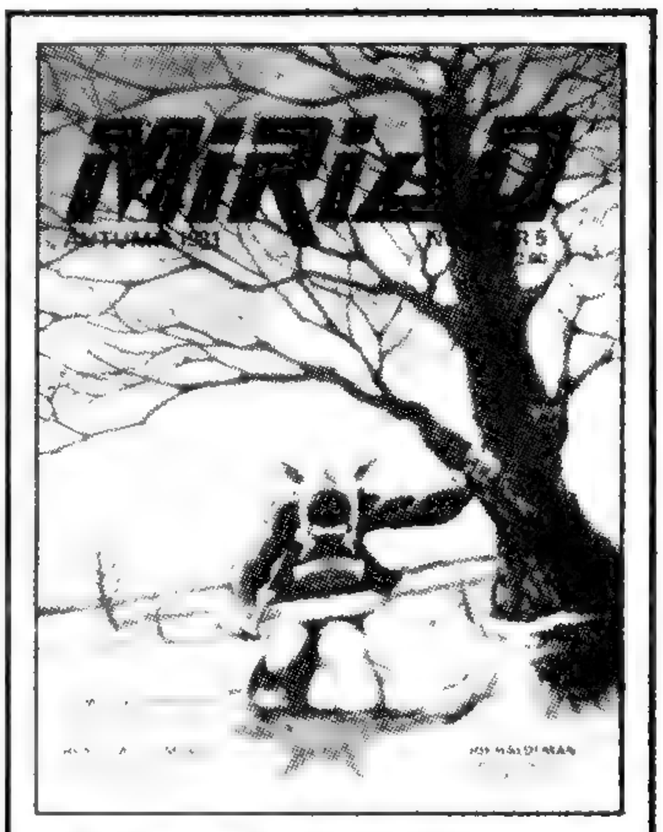

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THE BEAVERS
WE NEVER HAVE ANY GOOD COOKIES AROUND HERE
WHAT DO YOU MEAN I BOUGHT SOME OF THEM OATMEAL GINGER SNAPPY MA...
YES - BUT WE DON'T HAVE ANY FUDGE DELIGHTS
THAT'S BECAUSE YOU ATE ALL OF THEM IN ONE DAY!
YOU SHOULDN'T LET THINGS UPSET YOU SO MUCH REG

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AARDVARK COMMENT

P.O. BOX 1674, STATION 'C', KITCHENER, ONTARIO N2G 4R2

Dear Deni & Dave,

Cerebus is pretty good. Good, but no better than Eisner's Spirit, Kurtzman's Mad, or Goodwin's Blazing Combat stuff. The question is -- can you sustain? No problem? Ha!!

LEE!! THOMASS!! O'NEIL!!

That scare you? It oughta. Three promising and, it seemed, talented artists who have now become the grand dinks of comic-dumb. (Unlike Dim Jim who was of course born a dink and can't be held responsible.)

To be sure, you've got more talent in your pinkie, etc., but can you really keep churning this stuff out *twelve times a year?* Am I bringing you down yet, man? Ol' Stu is really getting one primo rush on all these negative vibes.

First when I was gonna write you I was gonna say how much I liked Cerebus and all that stuff, but it really sounded dumb and everything like all those other letters you get, like y'know, "Can I have one of your pencil stubs for a nose ring?", and, "I was lost until I found Cerebus. You light up my life. Your pal, John Paul II," so I went down to the local chapterhouse of the Conservative Christian United National Traditionalist Society where they were teaching the kids how to beat liberals to death with sealing clubs. Put me right in the mood.

Is Stu Potts political? Hah. Political about what? Gimme an issue, I'll give you a Republican -- you can wipe your ass with it.

What was I talking about? Oh yeah, Cerebus is real good and you draw good. Reading Cerebus is like listening to a Beethoven symphony or even an X-ray Spex album. So they did a review of Cerebus in Epic, eh? I didn't know. I have to buy the cheaper brands. Charmin's softer anyway.

Thanks for the free Cerebus'. I love payola. I did some cartoons with Cerebus in them. Like Tricky the Dick says, who you kidding crime doesn't pay?

Your pal,
John Paul II
(Stu Potts)
c/o Comics Journal
196 West Haviland Lane
Stamford, CJ 06903

Is Stu Potts political? you bet. His political-style cartoons ("Pott Shots") appearing regularly in The Comics Journal, not unlike those of Aislin and Oliphant, have a far truer ring to them than any given page of "insightful and constructive criticism". As a comics professional, I give him full marks for his integrity and skill. And if that doesn't destroy his credibility, nothing will.

Dear Dave and Deni,

Cerebus 26 & 27 were great! (come to think of it, the rest are great too) Cerebus held hostage! It's fantastic to see how quickly a barbarian aardvark catches on to surviving in "civilization" (get their money!)

I loved the idea in Cerebus No. 5 of Cerebus being a pagan deity. What a perfect job for him. He could battle with Tarim! It could answer his problem in Mind Game II (No. 28) about finding a philosophical path for life. Why not follow his own religion? Everything would be just the way he'd want it. I can see it now! "The Aardvark Temple for Intoxication" "Beer Sacrifices Here" WOW!

I like your idea in *Sword of Cerebus No. 1* of having Elrod, Julius, and Cerebus locked in a closet. Please do it. Please!

Could you do a satire character on Frodo from the Lord of the Rings? How about Reagan, Trudeau, and Thatcher as an advisory board for Lord Julius ("Slash that budget!" "Let me rule!" "What?")

Remember: "Might makes right. Might for Right. Might for Might. Right for Might. Fight Fight Fight!" Go Dave! Go Cerebus!

Aardvark Advocate,
Louis Schubert
2 White Birch Lane
Beacon Falls, CJ

"Well, you know , I'm not the brightest guy in the world, but it seems to me that unless we starve the poor so we can arm every male between the ages of ten and ninety, we might as well hand ourselves over to World Cirinism."

"Madame Speaker, it is the considered opinion of my government that the right honorable former Chimp Mentor is playing Diamondback without a Magician."

"Now, just a minute, you aristocratic snob..."

"Gentlemen, please. At this most crucial juncture of the history of the world's great nations, we cannot, shall not, will not and do not propose to do anything which could be considered necessary, helpful, forth-right or clear-thinking. On this and any other matter even remotely related, there can be, will be, shall be and must needs be, no surrender."

Hmm. But how would it play in Beacon Falls?

AARDVARK COMMENT

P.O. BOX 1674, STATION 'C', KITCHENER, ONTARIO N2G 4R2

Dear Dave, -- Oh, and Deni, too!

Alright, so maybe I'm just getting funny-looking and not turning into an aardvark after all. But did you have to doubt my sanity in print? Now everyone acts like I'm nuts or something. Not only that, they think I don't know how to spell "metamorphoses"! And one guy keeps asking me how my pelt is coming along!!! (Sorry, I was overcome by a wave of exclamation points.)

But on to more serious matters.

1) Why weren't you in on the recent *Spirit* "Jam" story? Even one panel in the inimitable Sim style would have been welcome. I hope it was because you were busy pouring your heart and soul into things aardvarkian and not due to criminal neglect on the part of Mr. Kitchen.
2) All true aardvarkians should write to Marvel and demand the *X-Men* give equal in-joke time to *Cerebus*. There must be parity with *Elfquest!* (Maybe Wolverine is a fan? It'd figure.)
3) Dave, you're supernatural! Your work just keeps getting better! Loved the portfolio, the painted covers are much better than the old ones, and your "P's" seem to be healing nicely. One gripe: on the cover of No. 26, is Cerebus foaming at the mouth or eating his tie? I'm simply dying to know.

Overall, your work is some of the best ever. *Ever.* Don't ever give it up or I'll come sit on your doorstep and turn into an aardvark and froth at the mouth (or eat my tie, I'm not sure which). Gotta go now, my elf is calling.

Yours till Mealc sinks,
J.C. (Ingrim) Swinford
1414 Esnoald Blvd.
Gurann, Boreala

1) I heard about the Spirit "jam" about a year ago... Marshall Rogers suggested that I "get in on it". I decided not to pursue the matter, for much the same reason that I don't invite myself to parties. I thought the story turned out to be remarkably good.
2) The first "Parity with Elfquest" rally will be held December 12, 1982 in Chris Claremont's living room. We hope all real *Cerebus fans will attend.*
3) Ho ho ho.

Dear Dave,

This is another letter from someone who picked up a back issue or two (in this case, *Sword of Cerebus* I & II) and went back the next day to buy everything else. Someone in Aardvark Comment (I don't recall who or when) stated that Cerebus is sentimental. I don't believe this is true. I can think of no one whose skin Cerebus would save before his own, unless *perhaps* (as in Lord Julius' case) he is a hired bodyguard.

I don't think Cerebus knows what the word "friendship" means. *If* he has anyone whom he considers a friend, *we* haven't met that person yet. (The only possible exception to this may be the Regency elf.) Cerebus' entire life philosophy is Looking Out for Number One.

I should like to see Cerebus meet someone, in whom Cerebus is interested only for material gain, but who likes -- no, loves Cerebus purely for himself, and see how he reacts. I don't mean Jaka; she already loves Cerebus in a different way. I mean someone from whom Cerebus can discover -- or more likely, fail to discover -- the meaning of friendship. I'd like to see you write that. (Actually *I'd* like to write it...) On to another matter -- Deni's complaints re: bootleg Cerebus material. I'm a budding cartoonist myself, and I'm wondering if you would object to using Cerebus in material for con art shows. I've got several ideas for one-panel Cerebus gags (a copy of one is enclosed), but I don't want to tread on your feet after reading Deni's (very valid) complaint.

Looking forward to No. 30.

Paul Gadzikowski
6327 Lakewood No. A1
Chicago, Il.

I would agree with you that Cerebus doesn't know what friendship means. Right now. Most of his "friends" are people he knew in those rare times that he settled in one place for a month or two -- the guy who owned the hotel in number 27 for instance. Astoria and The Regency Elf are a whole new experience for him. As you'll see in the next few issues.

Anyone wishing to use Cerebus in a con art show, as an illustration in a fanzine or other such things is quite welcome to do so. A small "copyright Dave Sim" somewhere on such work would be appreciated, however.

Dear Deni and Dave:

I am writing this letter to ask your help in publicizing the First Annual Comic Fan Awards. I hope these awards will involve a large cross-section of comic readers and give comic professionals a better idea of what types of story and art are most appealing to large numbers of fans.

Because no fees are charged for participation, I am dependent on periodicals like yours to help me publicize this effort. I am requesting that you print the enclosed letter, either on your letters page or as part of an "in-house" ad page, in the issues to be released in November and/or December, 1981.

By publishing the letter in your comics, the chances of a certain aardvark being a winner are much better than if you do not participate. The advantages to you are the economic benefits resulting from the words "Award-Winning" on the cover, as well as the publicity value. I will send you complete results when they are tallied. Thank you for your help. Please feel free to write to me with any questions or suggestions.

Sincerely,
David Craven

You talked me into it, you silver-tongued devil, you. If elected, I promise to serve to the best of my abilities and promise not to put "Award-winning" on the cover. If defeated, I promise to put "Award-losing", though.

AARDVARK COMMENT

P.O. BOX 1674, STATION 'C', KITCHENER, ONTARIO N2G 4R2

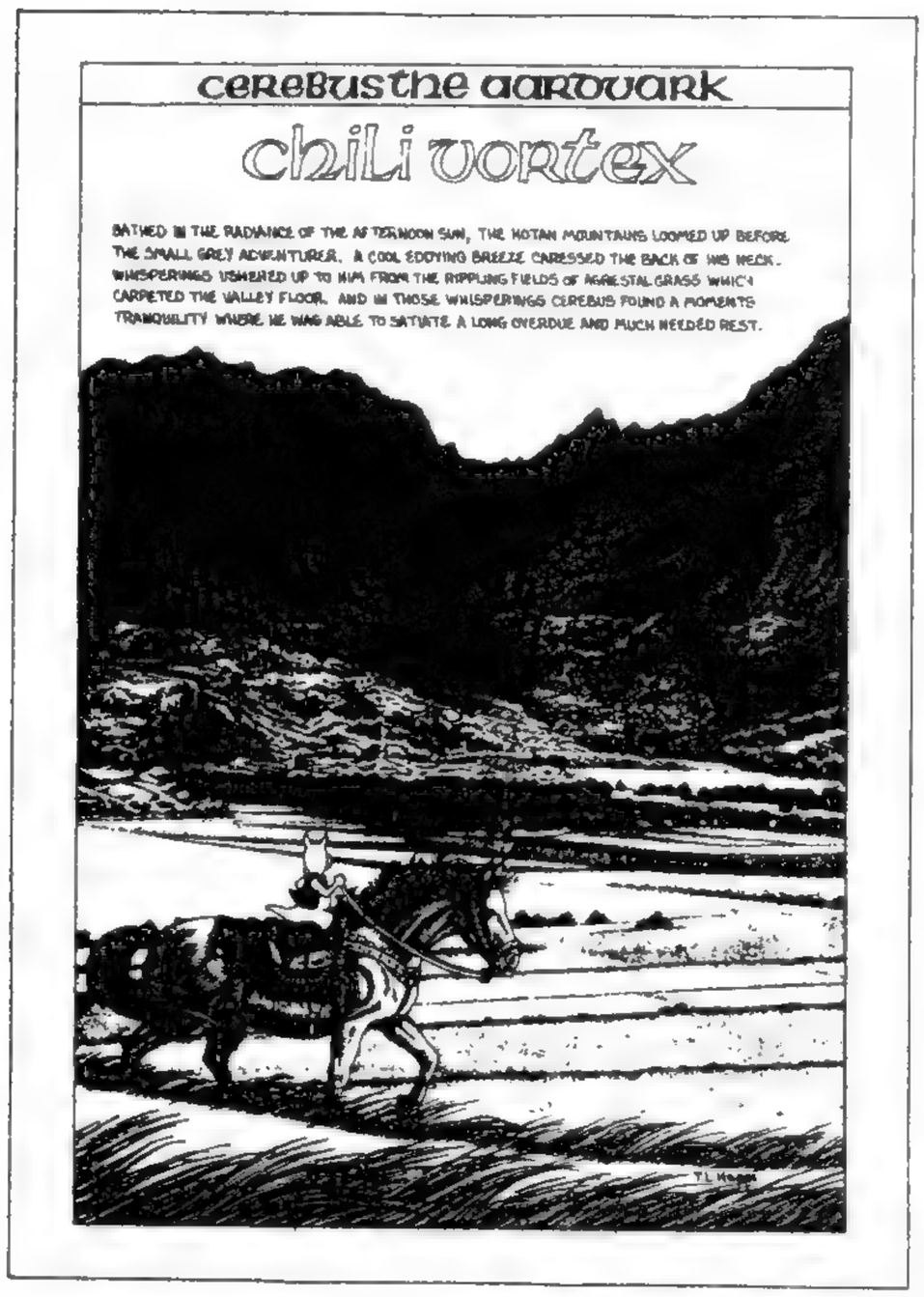
BALLOT

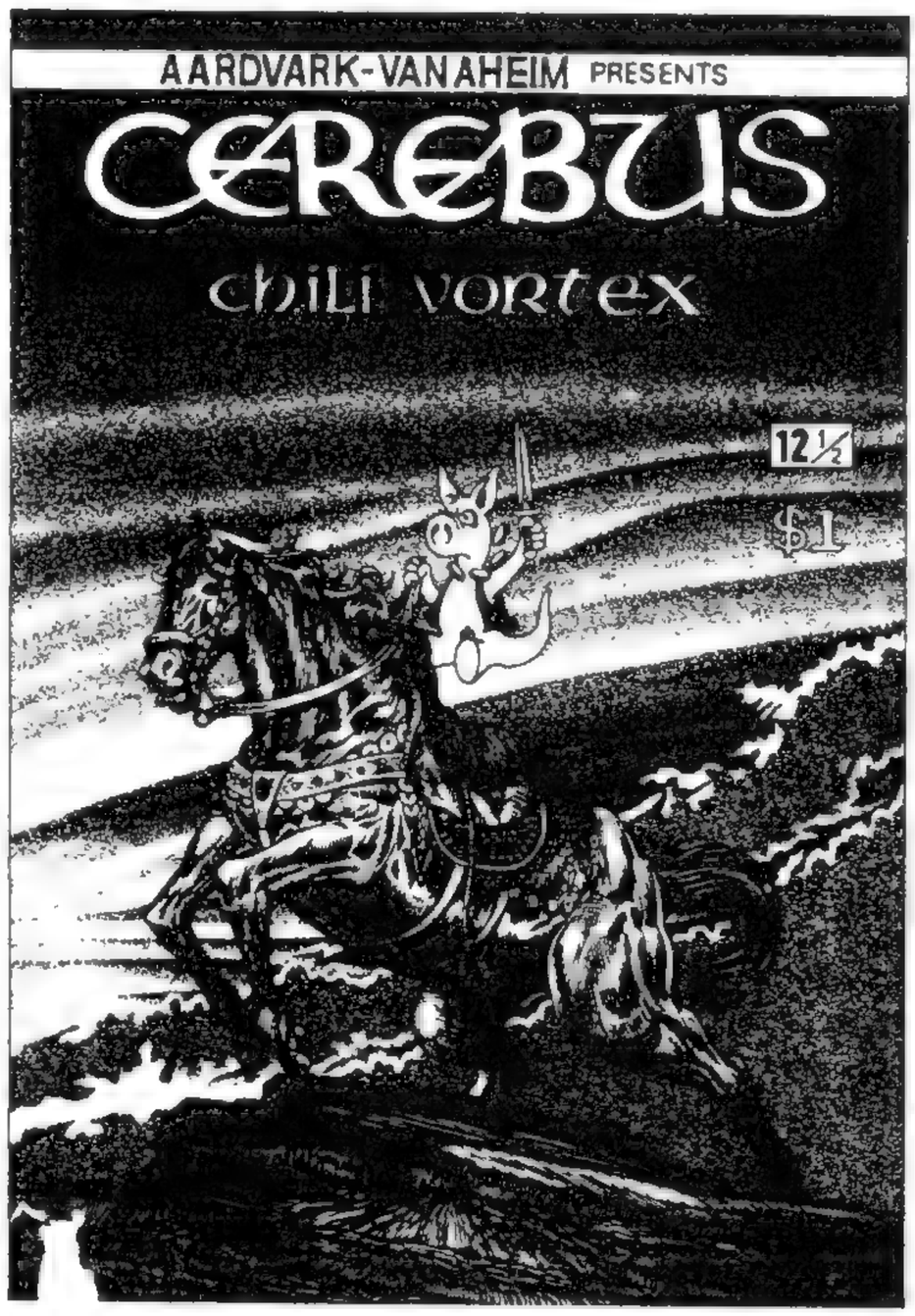
Dear Comic Fan,

This letter is to announce the 1st Annual Comic Fan Awards. These awards are not sponsored by or affiliated with any professional publishing company or fanzine. In order to assure the largest possible participation, no fees will be charged for voting.

These are the rules:

1. Eligible Voters: any comic fan
2. Eligible for awards:
   a. Any comic story or cover published in a book or periodical dated 1981.
   b. Any comics-related dramatic presentation shown or broadcast in 1981.
3. Awards Given:
   a. Best Comic Short Story (1-12 pgs.) - writing (plot & script)
   b. Best Comic Novelette (13-25 pgs.) - writing
   c. Best Comic Novella (26-60 pgs.) - writing
   d. Best Comic Novel (61 pgs. or more) - writing
   e. Best Comic Short Story - art (pencils & inks)
   f. Best Comic Novelette - art
   g. Best Comic Novella - art
   h. Best Comic Novel - art
   i. Best Comic Short Story - coloring
   j. Best Comic Novelette - coloring
   k. Best Comic Novella - coloring
   l. Best Comic Novel - coloring
   m. Best Cover - drawing
   n. Best Cover - painting
   o. Best Dramatic Presentation
4. Vote for 5 choices or fewer in each category, in order of preference. If you feel no award should be given in a category, vote "No Award". If you feel unqualified to vote in a category, vote "Don't Know".
5. To vote for a category, give the name of the story, along with the title of the book or issue number of the periodical.
6. For the best cover and drama awards, give the book title, issue number of the periodical or title of the drama.
7. For continued stories (e.g., in the "Best Novel" category), give the story title and book title or issue number of only the first and last parts. Continued stories are eligible if any part is in a publication dated 1981.
8. For a copy of the results, send a SASE plus 10¢ with your ballot.
9. Results will also be sent to the publishers of: DC Comics, Marvel Comics, Gold Key/Whitman Comics, Warren Comics, Archie Comics, Harvey Comics, Kitchen Sink Comics, Comely Comics, Charlton Comics, Elfquest, Heavy Metal, Eclipse Magazine, First Kingdom, The Comic Reader, The Comics Journal, Comics Feature, Starlog, Prevue, RBCC, The Comic World, The Comics Times and Aardvark-Vanaheim.
10. Please also send your suggestions for naming this award.
11. Balloting closes February 28, 1982.
12. Send your ballot to:
    David Craven
    1836 Glenwood Ave.
    Independence, MO 64052


cerebus the aardvark
chili vortex
BATHED IN THE RADIANCE OF THE AFTERNOON SUN, THE KOTAN MOUNTAINS LOOMED UP BEFORE THE SMALL GREY ADVENTURER. A COOL EDDYING BREEZE CARESSED THE BACK OF HIS NECK. WHISPERINGS USHERED UP TO HIM FROM THE RIPPLING FIELDS OF AGRESTAL GRASS WHICH CARPETED THE VALLEY FLOOR. AND IN THOSE WHISPERINGS CEREBUS FOUND A MOMENTS TRANQUILITY WHERE HE WAS ABLE TO SATIATE A LONG OVERDUE AND MUCH NEEDED REST.



submitted by Tracy L. Hoppi

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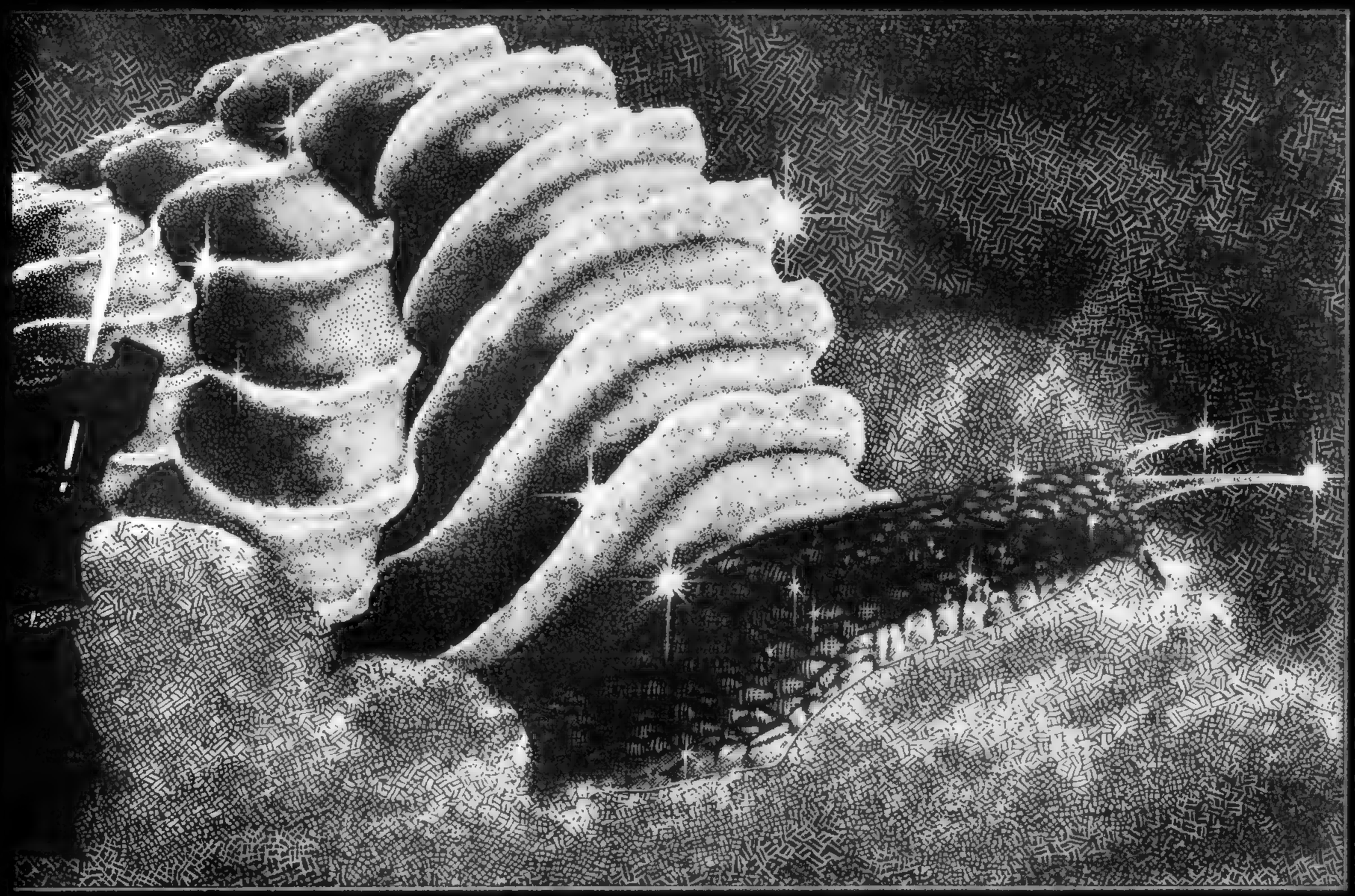

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Unless I Am Paid A Ransom of $50,000!

J.P.D.A.

!

?

Word soon reached the Salamander, the secret leader of the cult.

Hsssssssss....

JADA! That Cow! Bitch! Slug! Leech! Shrew! Mare! Harpy!

I don't NeeD this... Now as for the Lot of you...

YOU DOLTS! BuffooNS! Fools! CLODS! Scumbags! How COULD you LeT her steal that film?

MUST I watch you Every Second, every Day? SomeTimes I think NieTzche was right!

Your WINE Master!

O.K., NEW GAME PLAN! I won't pay ANY RANSOM!

I WANT you to KILL THREE OF JADA'S GANG! THEN IF WE DON'T GET THE FILM BACK WE'LL KILL THE REST!

Very GooD WINE! 1905 WAS A PoTeNT year! Was that a KNOCK on the Door? HMMMMM..?

PLANT

THE SALAMANDER'S MEN PUT INTO MOTION HIS "MURDER MENU"! (For the purpose of good TASTE, IT WILL BE PRESENTED THUS...)

Breakfast

When rooftop sunbathing one morning,
"Worm" Turner was "et" without warning.
Twelve buzzards decended,
Worm's Life swiftly ended.
And Jada? She went into mourning

Lunch

A crafty young chappy named DuLuth,
Made a call from a telephone booth.
It closed tight (as a can),
Filled with ants (AfricaN),
Who ate DuLuth, in booth. How uncouth.

Dinner

This phony clairvoyant called Brahma
Showered Late that night with piraNha.
The greedy wee fish
Made the humbug their dish.
Which helped him achieve his NirvaNa!

I suspect foul play!

That miscreant!

Sigh! Another agent down the drain!

I TELL YEZ DIS IS LOUSY!

R.I.P

R.I.P

R.I.P

I TELL YEZ "CHIN," IT WEREN'T NEVER A GOOD IDEA TA HAVE A DAME AS A GANG BOSS!

I SAYS WE ICE HER NOW AND SCRAM WHILE WE'RE ABLE!

I DON' KNOW, "LIPS." SHE'S PLENTY TOUGH. DIDJA SEE HOW SHE NABBED "WORM'S" KILLER?!

"Lips!"

"Lips", bring me the man who killed "Worm!"

Well, Mr. "Long" Green, I have a message for **you** to deliver to your **boss**!

MERDE'!

SHE HAD "LONG" GOLD PLATED! ERK!

OY!

UGH!

G...G...G.

MMPH!

CLEVER! TASTEFUL, BUT CLEVER!

NOTICE: THIS OBJECT IN HIS HAND!

A PIECE OF FABRIC, BURLAP!

JUDGING FROM THE COLORS AND THE TYPE, THIS IS A BAG FROM THE BRIXTON CEMENT COMPANY!

IT WENT OUT OF BUSINESS YEARS AGO. BUT, THEIR WAREHOUSE IS STILL OUT ON THE EDGE OF TOWN!

GO THERE! IF YOU FIND JADA, KILL HER AND BRING ME HER BODY AT MY ZEPLIN HANGER! AND PUT "LONG" OUT IN THE GARDEN FOR THE BIRDS!

CONCLUSION IN ISSUE 33

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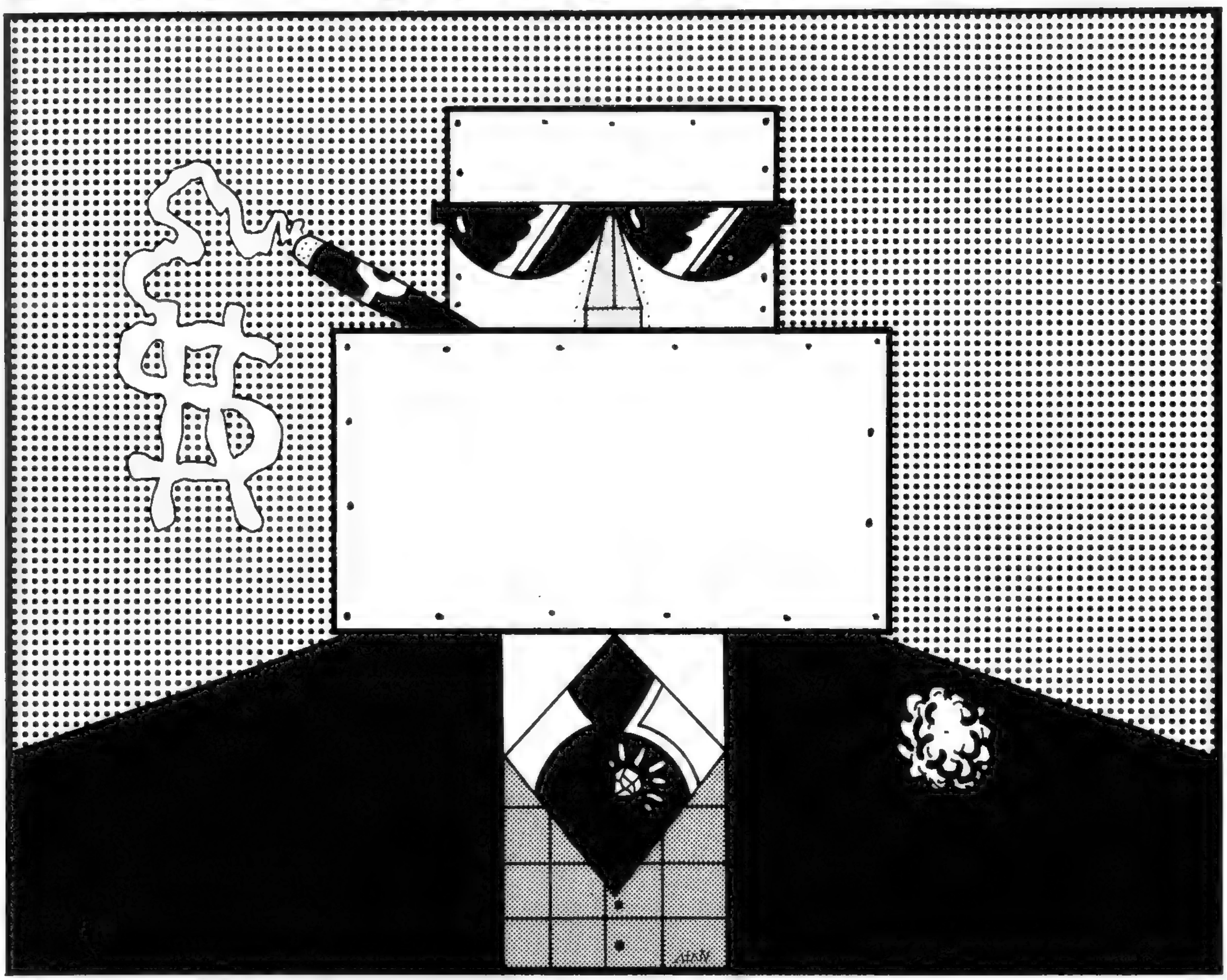

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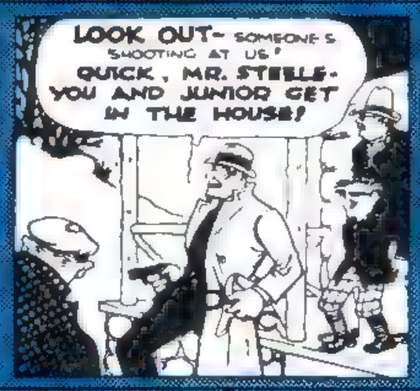

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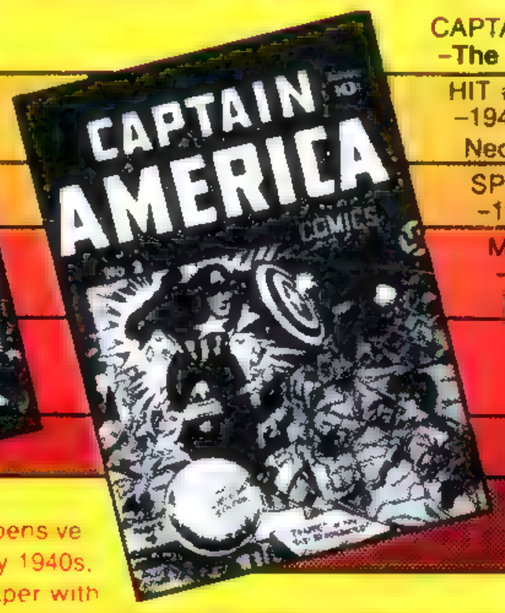

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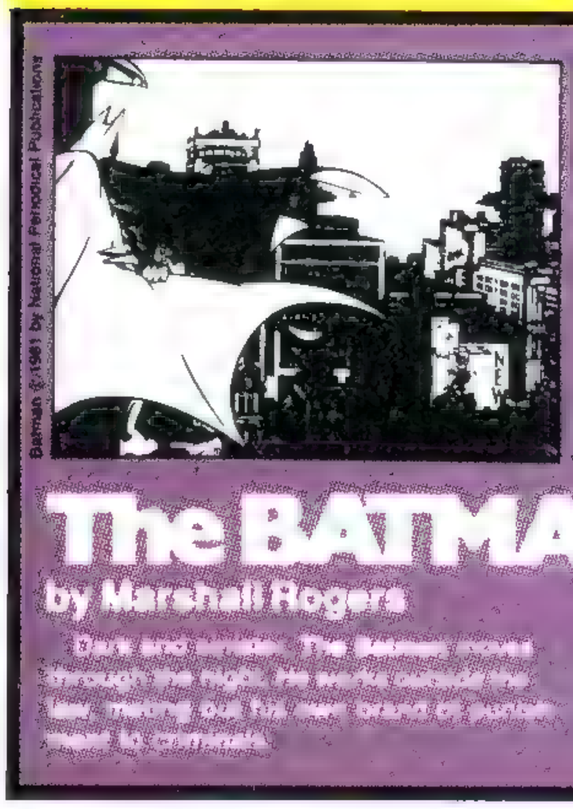

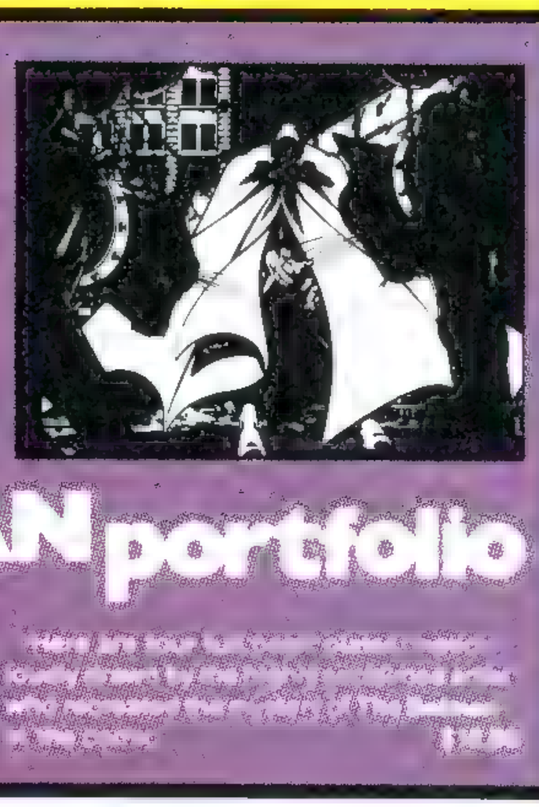

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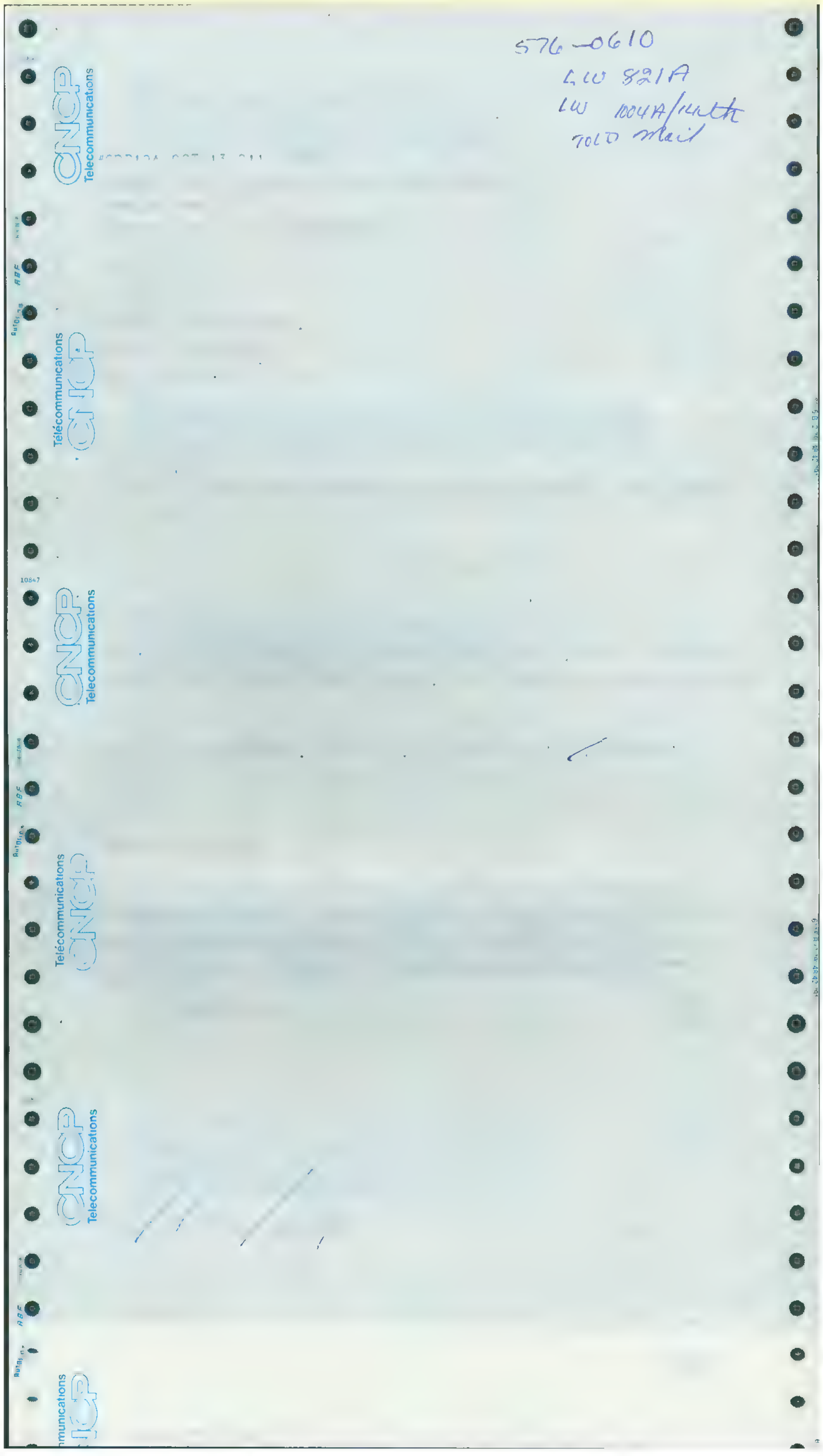
CEREBUS ARCHIVE

"Telegram from Marc Voline of Les Humanoides Associes (Paris-based publishers of METAL HURLANT) re: French rights to CEREBUS. Lots of enthusiasm but never any follow-up [see page 46 for the misplaced first overture]."

- Dave Sim



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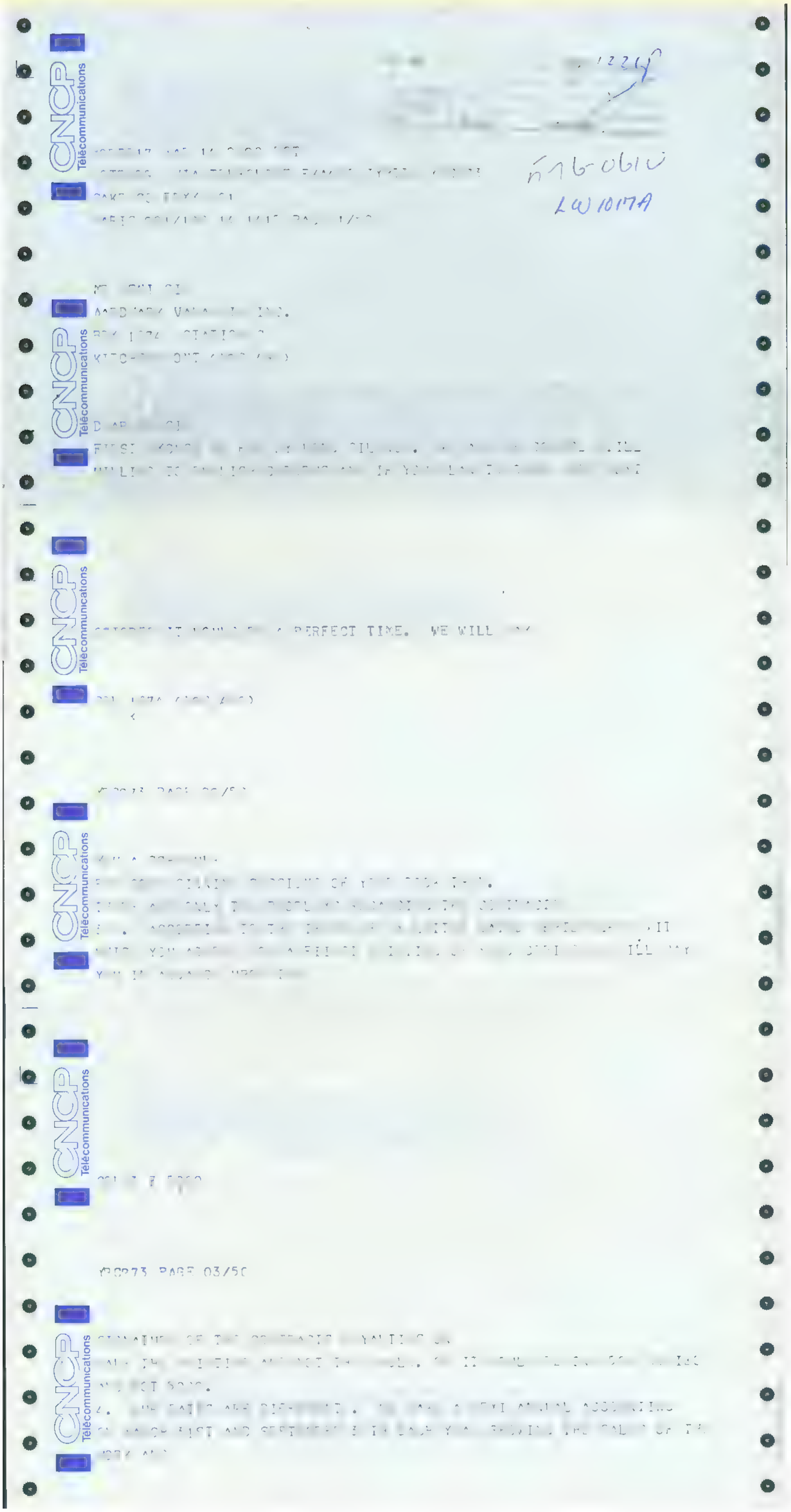

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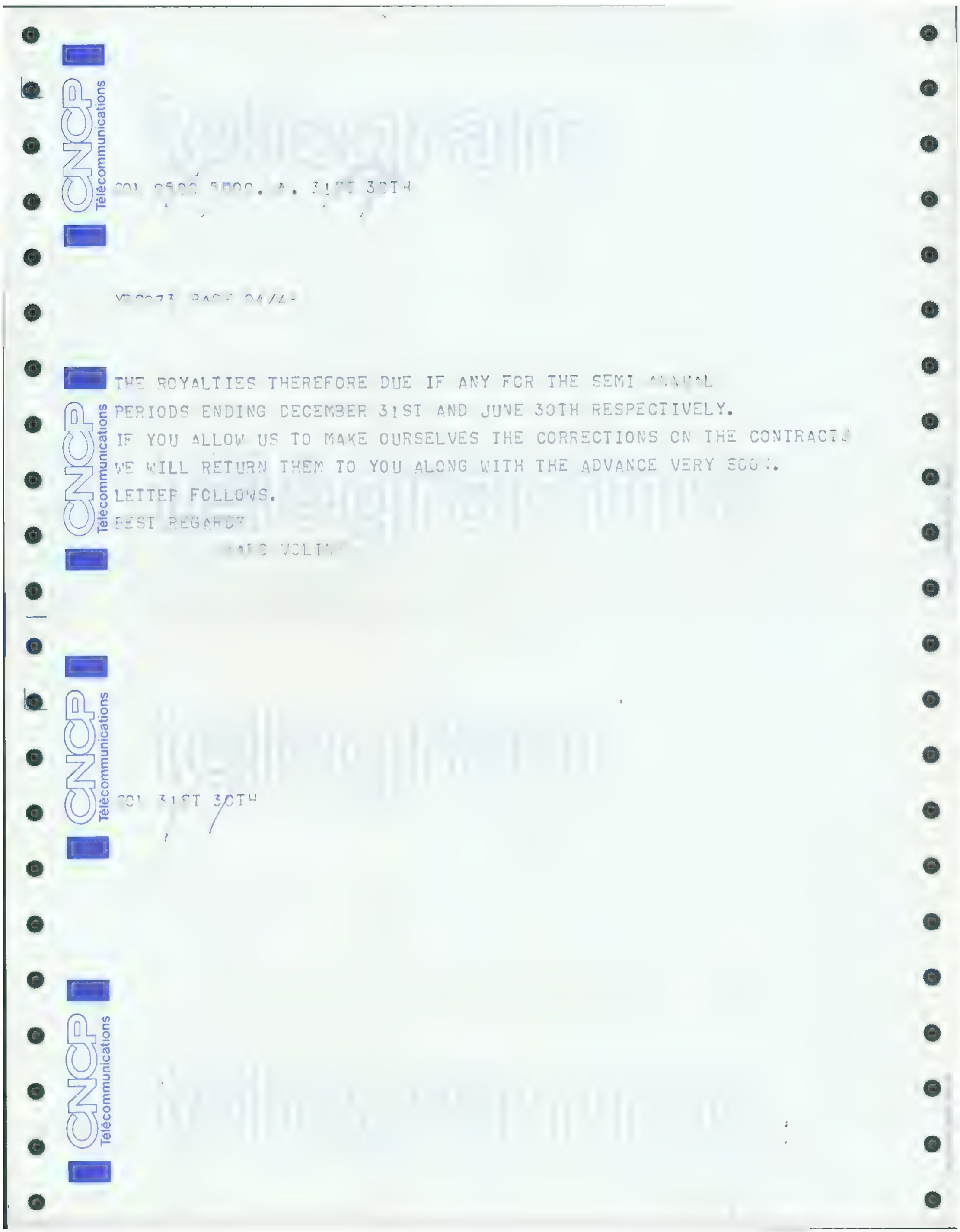

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PERIODS ENDING DECEMBER 31ST AND JUNE 30TH RESPECTIVELY.
IF YOU ALLOW US TO MAKE OURSELVES THE CORRECTIONS ON THE CONTRACTS
WE WILL RETURN THEM TO YOU ALONG WITH THE ADVANCE VERY SOON.
LETTER FOLLOWS.
BEST REGARDS

MARC VOLINE

"form letter sent by Deni to all of the stores that had signed up for the tour."

- Dave Sim

AARDVARK-VANAHEIM, INC.

"i

'ould you please check this schedule out carefully to insure that I hav
your shop name and address correct, as well as the date and time (i
applicable) of Dave's appearance.

If there are any errors or changes that need to be made, you can call
at (
576-0610. Call at any time, as I have an answering machine tha
I check every day, regardless of whether I will be in the office that day.

Dave and I are both looking forward to seeing you and your staff on thi
tour and hope it will be a success for you as well as us.

Sincerely!

Deni Sim

Publicity Director

BOX 1674 STATION 'C' KITCHENER ONTARIO N2G 4R2

"Letter from John Barrett re: the Tour which we would use crossing the border in case there were any questions at US Customs. As per page 44, we told them we needed the letter to get funding from the government – we didn't want to tell them we might get turned back at Pearson airport for fear they'd just cancel."

- Dave Sim

2461 TELEGRAPH AVENUE • BERKELEY, CALIFORNIA 94704 • TELEPHONE (415) 843-5405

July 7, 1982

To Whom it May Concern,

This letter serves to confirm that as a part of a tour of the United States, Dave and Deni Sim will be appearing at three Comics and Comix retail outlets in Northern California between Oct. 21, 1982 and Oct. 24, 1982 for the purpose of promoting their publication Cerebus. We have invited them to appear to help boost sales of both current and past issues of Cerebus. In addition, we expect their appearance to boost the sales of all future Cerebus publications.

John Barrett
Owner, Manager
Comics & Comix

"Letter from Tom Walton firming up details for the COMICS & COMIX appearances."

- Dave Sim

COMICS & COMIX

2461 TELEGRAPH AVENUE • BERKELEY, CALIFORNIA 94704 • TELEPHONE (415) 843-5405

July 7, 1982

Dear Dave and Deni,

Thanks for your time on the phone two weeks ago. I am looking forward to your visit. As we discussed, I am writing to you to confirm the itinerary we tentatively agreed on. You would arrive in the Bay area on Wed., Oct. 20. On Thurs., Oct 21, you would be in our Berkeley store from 6-8 PM. On Friday; Oct. 22, you would be in our Palo Alto store from 6-8 PM. You would have Saturday, Oct. 23 free and then would be in our Citrus Heights store on Sunday, Oct. 24 from 1-3 PM. When last we talked, you were looking into hotel arrangements through your travel agent. Let me know what you find out. The problem I was having was finding an affordable place in Berkeley that had 24 hour room service. As soon as you can definitely confirm the above arrangements, I will start publicizing your visit. You can reach me at work at (415) 845-4091 or at home at (415) 548-1097. I spoke with "Mike" of Hi De Ho at the last Creation Con and he said the above arrangements were fine with him.

Also enclosed with this letter is the "testimonial" I said I would send to help you get funding from the Canadian government. I hope that works out. Let me know if there is anything else that I can do to help.

Thanks again for your time and attention to these matters. I'm sure we'll be in touch soon. Bye for now.

Yours truly,

Thomas M. Walton

John Barrett • Bud Plant

"Letter from Kara Dalkey of Shockwave and THE CEREBUS RADIO SHOW."

- Dave Sim

July 12, 1982

Dear Dave and Deni,

Greetings, again. Here is your official copy of the first episode of Cerebus, The Radio Show. I'm sorry it has taken so long for this to get to you, but, as usual, production time took longer than I expected. Things seem to be going according to schedule, now, though. Cerebus 2 will be taped this week, and Cerebus 3 is in the typewriter. Cerebus 1 has not been aired yet, (so if, heaven forbid, you decide it shouldn't be, you'll have a chance to say so) as I am waiting until at least four are ready. That way, listeners are sure to have an episode a week for a while. Also, I want some lead time to advertise in local papers and bookstores. Would you mind if I used an illustration from one of the comics in an ad for the radio show? (It's tempting to ask you to draw a special ad illo, but I won't be so boorish.)

Before you listen to the tape, allow me to remind you that this is (at this point) an amateur production. Most of the sound effects are live (and many of them sound it). I am not as pleased with this episode as I'd like to be, but it's a start. I expect things to improve as we have more of these under our belts. And should the NPR grant come through in October, this will be redone with much more professional equipment.

If you have any suggestions that would be helpful for future episodes, I'd love to hear them. As it stands, I should be sending you a tape about once a month, until the grant comes through or our energy runs out. If you'd like copies of the ads or posters we do, (if you keep a scrapbook) just ask. Thank you again for giving us the opportunity to do Cerebus, The Radio Show. We're having a lot of fun, and we hope you and our eventual listeners enjoy the results. 'Til later,

Punchem Innaface,

Kara Dalkey

Kara Dalkey
1117 W. 26th St.
Mpls., MN 55408
(612) 377-6284 or (612) 827-5621

"I was pretty excited about this as you'd expect. A little less excited when we didn't hear back until after we got back from the Tour at the beginning of November."

- Dave Sim

METAL HURLANT
La "Machine" a rever

LES HUMANOÏDES ASSOCIÉS ÉDITEURS

Paris, the 16th of July 1982

Ref. :
155/82

CEREBUS
Mr Dave SIM
Aardwark
Vanheim
PO BOX 1674 STATION C
Kitchenor (Ontario)
CANADA N2G 4P2

Dear Sir,

I saw 2 or 3 copies of CEREBUS and I found this strip marvellous and plenty of feelings. That is why I would like to publish it in France in the form of a book of about 200 pages.

We are publishers of the magazine METAL HURLANT (became HEAVY METAL in U.S.A.)

Please, could you send me by plane some issues of all the publications and give me an option of two months in order to make you a precise offer.

Thank you very much for your answer.

Jean-Pierre DIONNET
Publisher

S.E.N.H.A.
17, rue Monsigny
75002 PARIS - FRANCE
Tél. : 742.46.10
Télex : 213 913 F
S.A.R.L. 100.000 F
R.C.S. PARIS B 319 391 876

Note: Wouldn't 4-7 pm be easier for the tour?

5610 [redacted] Patterson Avenue, Richmond, Virginia 23226
Phone: (804) 282-5532

Nostalgia Plus

THE COMPLETE
COMIC BOOK STORE

MARK C. SMITH
Manager

Sept 16 1982

Dear Dave,

[illegible]

P.S. Is it true that my [illegible] is spelled incorrectly and that the author is [illegible] Please correct spelling and let me know.

[illegible]

Best wishes for a successful tour.

Sincerely,

Mark C. Smith

"Another form letter from Deni to the participating Tour stores."

- Dave Sim

AARDVARK-VANAHEIM, INC.

July 22, 1982

Dear Tour participant:

In order to help those shops who are on our first US Tour be better prepared, Dave has designed a poster giving all the addresses and dates for where and when we will be appearing.

This poster will be available to you from the same folks who you order Cerebus from. It will be in full colour (the same as the ad that appears on the back cover of Cerebus), 17 x 22 inches, (which will come to you folded down to $8\frac{1}{2}$ by 11), on 80lb. caver stock, coated on two sides.

These will retail at $1.00 each, with a sufficiant print-run to insure 200 copies are available to each shop on the tour.

We are hoping to ship these posters with the next issue of Cerebus (#41) on August 15th, to insure that everyone on the tour receives the poster well in advance of our appearance.

A final word concerning the tour. To help keeps costs to a minimum, we are having our travel agent book the hotels for the tour in the hopes that we can get a good rate from one of the major chains. If this causes any problems for you, please let me know as this is being done for your benefit.

If you have any further questions concerning any of this, please feel free to call me at (519) 576-0610. Thanks.

Sincerely-

Deni Sim

BOX 1674 STATION 'C' KITCHENER ONTARIO N2G 4R2

"Note from Mark Steiner with my notes to Deni and her confirmation of the tour date. A very memorable stop because of his wife's home-cooked Italian meal, just hanging out at their house while watching the baseball playoffs. The hotel thing was starting to lose its novelty by that point"

- Dave Sim

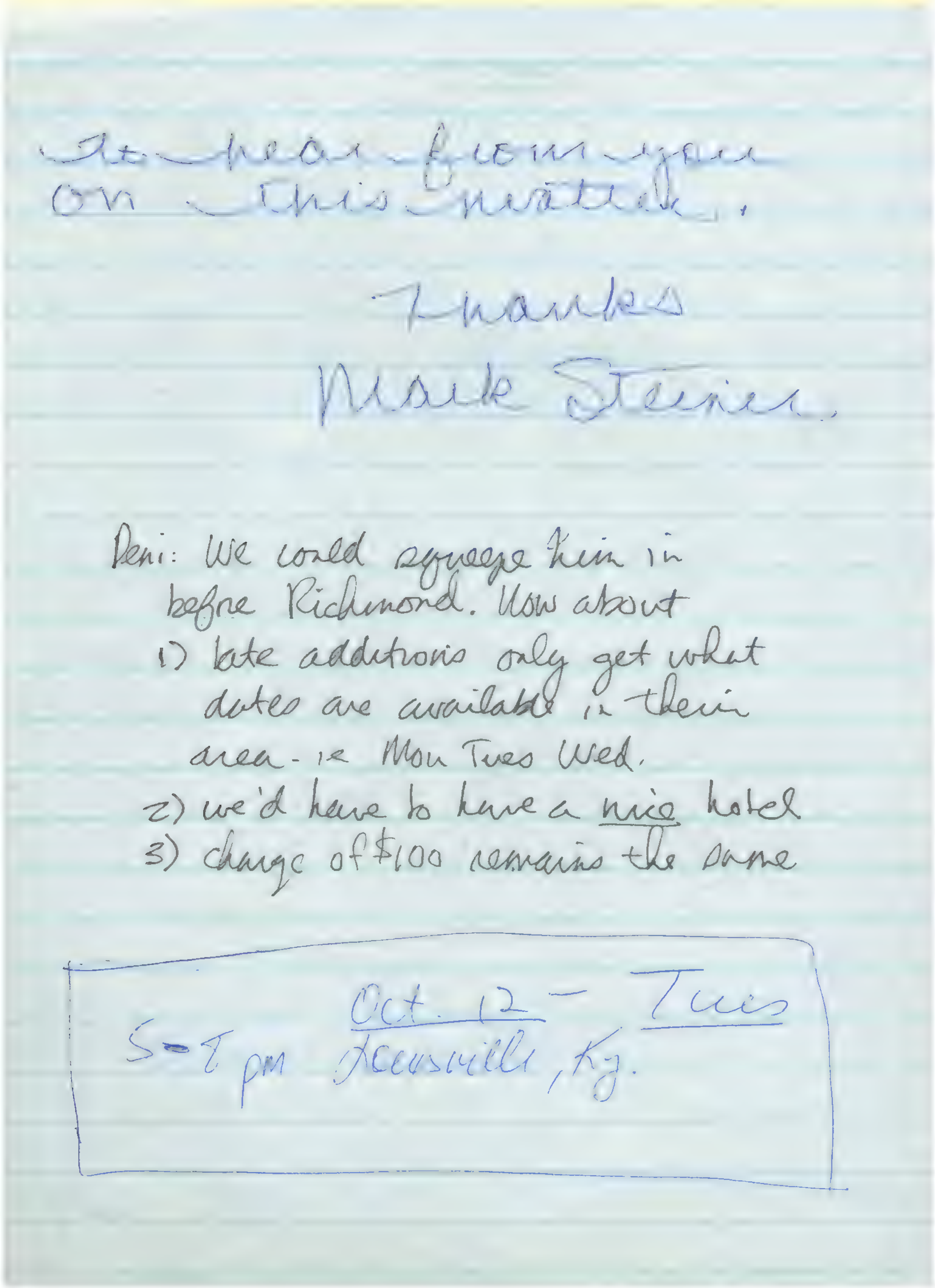
THE GREAT ESCAPE
2433 Bardstown Rd.
LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY 40205
(502) 456-2216

Dear Folks

I read in Cal's latest TBG column that the 2 of you intended to add a few of comic stores, we as the local comic book store would certainly be interested in a visit from one person behind Cerebus, we would like to help further Dave's various projects. I know how busy you all are this point but we would like

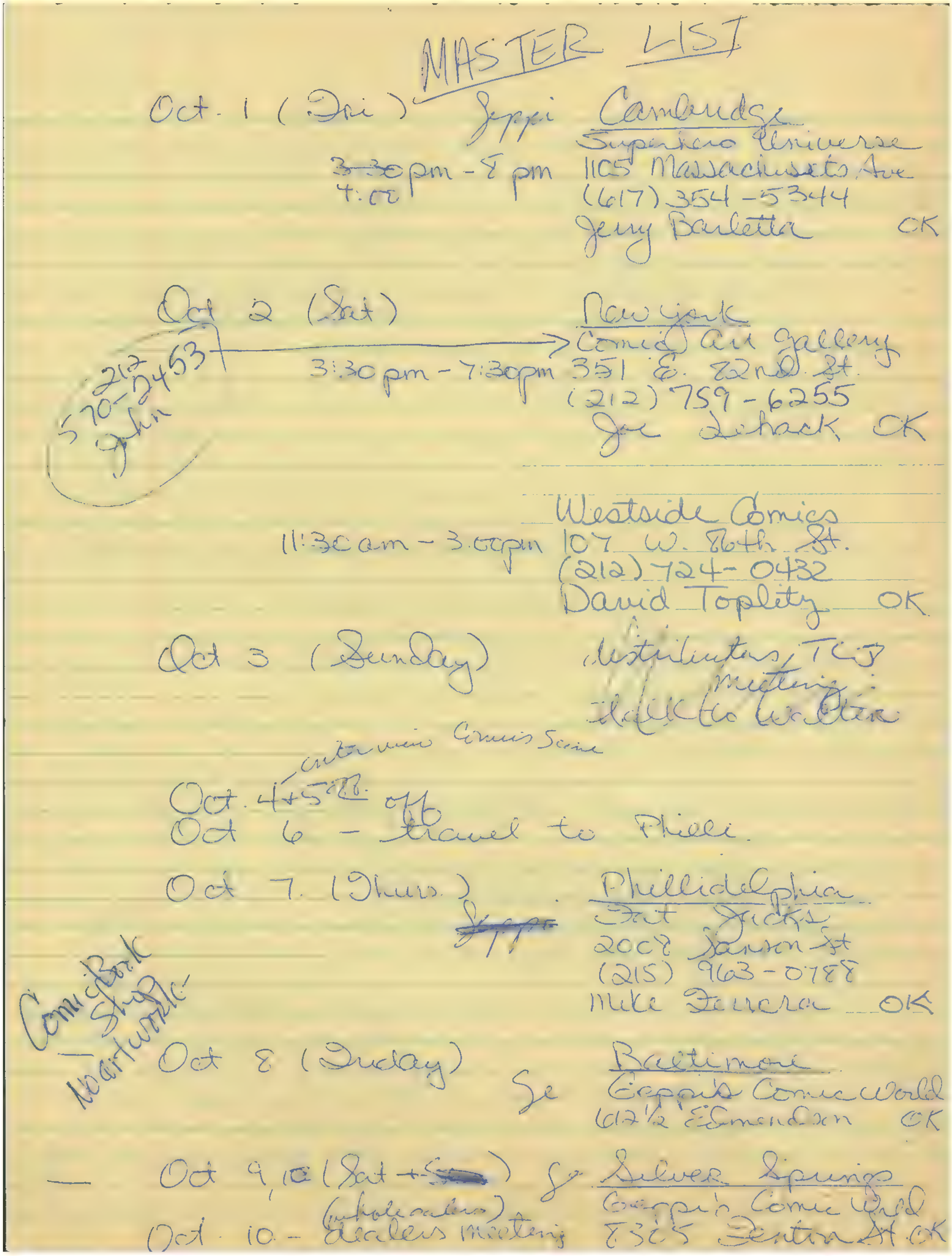
"Note from Mark Steiner with my notes to Deni and her confirmation of the tour date. A very memorable stop because of his wife's home-cooked Italian meal, just hanging out at their house while watching the baseball playoffs. The hotel thing was starting to lose its novelty by that point"

- Dave Sim


The Mark Steiner
Comic Marathon
Thanks
Mark Steiner
Deni: We could squeeze them in
before Richmond. How about
1) late additions only get what
dates are available in their
area - ie Mon Tues Wed.
2) we'd have to have a nice hotel
3) charge of $100 remains the same
Oct. 12 - Tues
5-7 pm Kensville, Ky.

"Firming up the itinerary. This is the first appearance of Steve Geppi in the Cerebus Archive. He was a retailer who had, at the time, just recently taken over from Irjax Distributors when they abruptly departed the scene and was starting a new operation called Diamond Comic Distributors. He picked Deni and me up at the airport in his van. The "Oct. 10 - dealers meeting" was at his first warehouse, then still under construction. I saw him as an interim figure until Phil Seuling got around to picking up the Irjax pieces. I'm not ALWAYS right."

- Dave Sim



MASTER LIST

Oct. 1 (Fri) Geppi Cambridge
3~~:30~~ pm - 8 pm 4:00 Superior Universe
1105 Massachusetts Ave
(617) 354-5344
Jerry Barletta OK

Oct 2 (Sat) New York
Comic Art Gallery
351 E. 82nd St.
(212) 759-6255
Joe Letnick OK

212 570-2453 John

3:30 pm - 7:30 pm

Westside Comics
11:30 am - 3:00 pm 107 W. 86th St.
(212) 724-0432
David Topley OK

Oct 3 (Sunday) Distributors, TCJ meeting: Hold to Wednesday

Oct. 4 + 5 ~~A.B.~~ interview Comics Scene
Oct 6 - Travel to Phila.

Oct 7. (Thurs.) ~~Geppi~~ Phillidelphia
Fat Jacks
2008 Sansom St
(215) 963-0788
Mike Friedrich OK

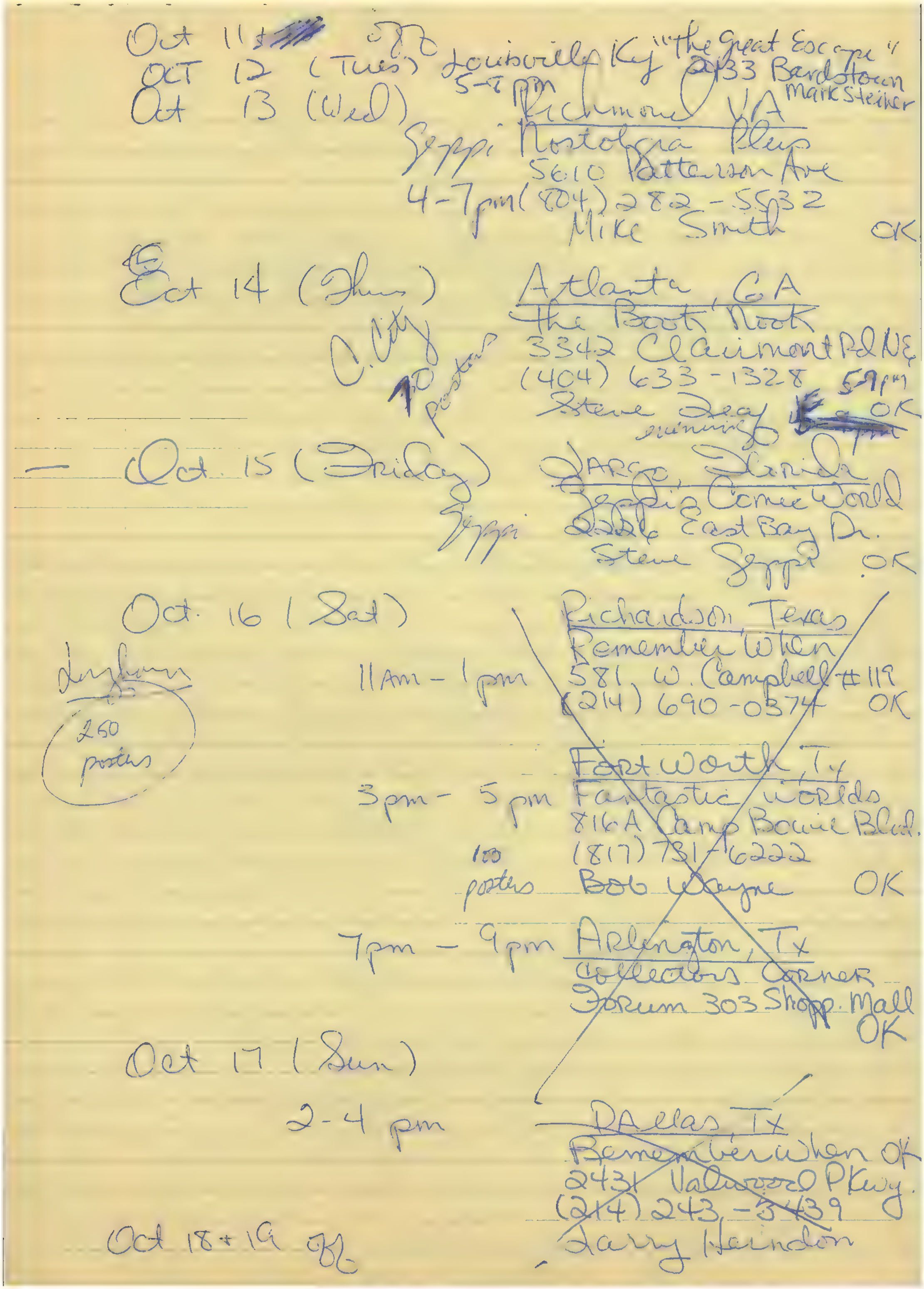
Comic Book Shop Nostalgia

— Oct 8 (Friday) Geppi Baltimore
Geppi's Comic World
612½ Edmondson OK

— Oct 9, 10 (Sat + ~~Sun~~) (whole week) Geppi Silver Springs
Geppi's Comic World
8365 Fenton St. OK
Oct. 10 - dealers meeting

"And I couldn't help but notice that the name "Geppi" was appearing as the distributor for a number of stores up and down the east coast."

- Dave Sim



"It was turning into quite a line-up."

- Dave Sim

Oct ~~22~~ 27 (Wed) travel to San Diego from Santa Barbara

Oct 28 (Thurs.) San Diego

Comic Kingdom
1629 University Ave OK
San Diego CA
(714) 291-9515
Jack Pickens

Pac
4:30- closing and dinner

(714) (home)
297-1943

Oct. 29 (Fri.) Long Beach

Hi De Ho
2142 E. 4th St.
Long Beach CA OK
(213) 434-0951
Eileen ~~(12-5 pm)~~ (~~4-8 pm~~ 5-9 pm)

Pac.
~~1st stop~~
pu Santa Monica shop

Oct. 30 (Sat.) day off in S Monica

Oct. 31 (Sun.) Santa Monica

Hi de Ho
~~1413 5th St.~~ OK
Santa Monica, CA
(213) 394-2820
Mike Smith

Pac.
~~$25~~ Santa Monica, Blvd.

~~150~~ 300 posters

2

Nov. 1 ~~travel to~~
Nov ~~4~~ fly to Colorado (Deanne)
warehouse (303) 893-3467
531 Broadway, Denver

Nov 5. (Fri) Denver Bolder

Mile High
1717 Pearl OK
Bolder

~~10am-6pm~~

2-6 pm

stay in Bolder

"It was turning into quite a line-up."

- Dave Sim

Nov 6 (Sat) Denver
~~29~~ mile High
2901 E Colfax
10am – 1:30 pm Denver

2:30 – 6 pm 308 S. Broadway
Denver, CO.

Nov. 7 (Sun) Colorado Springs

12 - 5pm Mile High
220 N. Tejon
Colo. Springs CO.

Nov. 8 fly home (radio show?)
at night?

"It was turning into quite a line-up."

- Dave Sim

Oct ~~22~~ 27 (Wed) travel to San Diego from Santa Barbara

Oct 28 (Thurs.) San Diego

Pac

Comic Kingdom
1629 University Ave OK
San Diego CA
(714) 291-9515
Jack Dickens

(714) (home)
297-1943

4:30- closing and dinner

Oct. 29 (Fri.) Long Beach

Pac.

Hi De Ho
2142 E. 4th St.
Long Beach CA OK
(213) 434-0951
Eileen ~~(12-5pm~~ ~~1-5pm~~)
5-9

~~1st~~ ~~Santa~~ Monica shop

Oct 30 (Sat) day off in S Monica

Oct. 31 (Sun.) Santa Monica

Pac.

Hi de Ho
~~1413 5th St.~~ OK
~~$25~~ Santa Monica, Blvd. Santa Monica, CA
(213) 394-2820
~~150~~ ~~200~~ 300 posters Mike Smith
2

Nov. 1 ~~travel to~~ fly to Colorado (Deanne)
Nov ~~4~~ Warehouse (303) 893-3467
531 Broadway, Denver

Nov 5. (Fri) ~~Denver~~ Boulder

Midnight
1717 Pearl
Boulder OK

~~10am 6pm~~

2-6 pm

day in Boulder

"It was turning into quite a line-up."

- Dave Sim

Tom Waldon – (415) 548-1097 home

Oct. 20 – travel to San. Fran
Holiday Inn – Emeryville

Oct 21 – Thurs
Bud
100

Diana Schutz

Berkely
Comics + Comix
2461 Telegraph Ave OK
Berkely CA
(415) 845-4091
6-8 pm

Oct 22 – Friday
Bud
100

Palo Alto
Comics + Comix
515 Cowper St.
Palo Alto, CA OK
(415) 328-8100
6-8 pm

Oct. 23 – Sat – off to see S.F.

Oct 24. Sunday
Bud
75/00

Citrus Heights
Comics + Comix
6135 Sunrise Blvd
Sacramento, CA
(916) 969-0717 OK
1-3 pm

Oct. 25 (Mon) travel to Santa Barbara

Oct. 26 (Tues.)

Per
741 De la Guerra ~~1111 State St.~~ OK
200 Plaza Santa Barbara 93101
(805) ~~964-0259~~
965-2400 Dave Du Bois

~~27 (Wed) travel to S.D.~~

~~28 (Thu.)~~

~~29. Long Beach (Fri)~~
~~31. Santa Monica (Sun)~~

~~Sat. 24~~

"It was turning into quite a line-up."

- Dave Sim

Oct. 24
BERKELEY
Comics and Comix
2401 Telegraph Ave.
Berkeley, CA

Oct. 25
PALO ALTO
Cubberley Comics
777 Cubberley Dr.
Palo Alto, CA

Oct. 26
SACRAMENTO
Comics and Comix
135 Sunrise Blvd.
Citrus Heights, CA

Oct. 26
SANTA BARBARA
Andromeda
Santa Barbara, CA

Oct. 28
[illegible]
Comic Kingdom
1629 University Ave.
San Diego, CA

Oct. 30
[illegible]
[illegible] Comics
[illegible]
Long Beach, CA

Oct. 31
SANTA MONICA
Hi De Ho Comics
1413 5th Street
Santa Monica, CA

Nov. 5
[illegible]
[illegible] Comics
[illegible]

Nov. 1
[illegible]
10 am - 1:30 pm
Mile High Comics
2901 E. Colfax
Denver, CO.
2:30 - 6 pm
Mile High Comics
[illegible]
Denver, CO.

Nov. 2
COLORADO SPRINGS
Mile High Comics
220 N. Tejon
Colorado Springs, CO

221 Queen St S · suite 1401 · Kitchener · Ontario · n2g 1w5

"It was turning into quite a line-up."

- Dave Sim

Oct. 1

[illegible]

Superhero Universe

1105 Massachussets Ave.

Cambridge, MA

Oct. 2

NEW YORK CITY

11:30 - 3:00

[illegible]side Comics

207 W. 86th St.

N.Y.C.

3:30 - 7:30

[illegible] Art Gallery

251 E. 82nd. St.

N.Y.C.

Oct. 12

Louisville, KY

The Great Escape

2433 Bardstown Rd.

Louisville, KY

Oct. 7

PHILADELPHIA

Fat Jacks

2008 Sanson St.

Phillidelphia, PA

Oct. 8

BALTIMORE

Geppi's Comic World

612½ Edmunson Ave.

Baltimore, MD.

Oct. 9

SILVER SPRINGS

Geppi's Comic World

8305 Fenton St.

Silver Springs, MD.

Oct. 13

RICHMOND, VA

[illegible]

5000 Patterson Ave.

Richmond, VA

Oct. 14

ATLANTA, GA

[illegible] Book Nook

3342 Clairmont Rd. [illegible]

Atlanta, Georgia

Oct. 15

LARGO, FL.

Geppi's Comic World

2226 East Bay Drive

Largo, Florida

Oct. 1

RICHARDSON, TX

11am - 1pm

Remember When

581 W. Campbell #119

Richardson, Texas

FORT WORTH, TX

[illegible]

Fantastic Worlds

816A Camp Bowie Blvd.

[illegible], Texas

"It was turning into quite a line-up."

- Dave Sim

Oct. 7

PHILLYDELPHIA

Sat guest

2008 Sanson St.

Phillidelphia, PA

Oct. 8

BALTIMORE

Geppi's Comic World

612½ Eamunson Ave.

Baltimore, MD.

Oct. 9

SYLVER SPRINGS

Geppi's Comic World

[illegible]

Silver Spring, MD.

Oct. 10

RICHMND, VA

Nostalgia Plus

5606 Patterson Ave.

Richmond , VA

Oct. 14

ATLANTA,,GA

The Book Nook

3342 Clairmont Rd. N.E.

Atlanta, Georgia

Oct. 15

LARGO, FL.

Geppi's Comic World

2226 East Bay Drive

Largo, Florida

Oct. 16

RICHARDSON,TX

11am - 1pm

Remember When

[illegible]

Richardson, Texas

FORT WORTH,TX

[illegible]

Fantastic Worlds

816A Camp Bowie Blvd.

Fort Worth, Texas

"It was turning into quite a line-up."

- Dave Sim

"Letter from Rick Crowe enclosing button payment."

- Dave Sim

THE
COMIC BOOK SHOP
234 ILKESTON ROAD,
NOTTINGHAM NG7 3EA, ENGLAND
Telephone: (0602) 789282
VAT Registration No. 309 7093 48
MARVEL AND D.C. SPECIALISTS
COMICS BOUGHT, SOLD & EXCHANGED
PROPRIETOR RICK CROWE

Deni Sim
Aardvark Vanaheim Inc.
Box 1674
Station 'C'
Kitchener
Ontario
N2G 4R2

28th July 1982

Dear Deni

Please find Money Order enclosed for US $410.90 (£235.00 at current R/E) as agreed in previous correspondence.

Thanks for the editorial plug in No. 39, this has got our scheme well received before we're started!

I haven't received the Artwork from you yet but as soon as I do I'll rush the proof samples to you.

Look forward to hearing from you again soon.

Best wishes.

Rick

Rick.

Deposited in US account Aug 6/82

COMIC BOOKS — ART BOOKS — S.F. — COMIC BAGS AND RELATED ITEMS

"Lone Star Comics promotion in advance of the trip."

- Dave Sim

CEREBUS IS COMING!

ARLINGTON STORE--
Saturday, Oct. 16, 2PM to 6PM

FOREST LANE STORE--
Sunday, Oct. 17, Noon to 6PM

APPEARING ONLY AT LONE STAR!

He's been described as gruff, disarming, short, cute, funny, grey, bizarre and clever. One thing's certain, Cerebus is unique! Even if there were other aardvarks cavorting about in your favorite comics, there'd be none like Dave Sim's Cerebus.

Now's your chance to meet Cerebus's talented creator during his **only** Texas appearance. There'll be time to talk and get your favorite Cerebus issues autographed. Dave will also be doing sketches. You can even purchase original Cerebus art.

NOTE. Dave and Deni Sim will be appearing only at the two Lone Star locations listed above. All other previously scheduled Dallas-Ft. Worth area appearances have been cancelled

FREE CEREBUS POSTER!

LONE STAR
COMICS & SCIENCE FICTION

SAVE 50%

On all our BACK ISSUE Comic Stock!
(Priced at $1.00 or more)

WE'VE NEVER HAD A SALE LIKE THIS!
INCREDIBLE SAVINGS & SELECTION!

Be sure to get there early for the best selection! A sale like this doesn't come along every day! In fact, this is Lone Star's first ever– and your chance to take advantage of incredible savings

NOTE: Lone Star reserves the right to limit multiple copy purchases of the same issue. If an item is sold out at either store you'll be able to order it from our warehouse (½ million comics in stock), still at the 50% discount

COUPON GOOD AT ARLINGTON AND DALLAS STORES.

Coupon good Fri.-Sun., Oct. 1-3!

COMING IN
NOVEMBER!

LONE STAR
COMICS & SCIENCE FICTION

IN

TOWN EAST MALL

LONE STAR'S THIRD BIG STORE IS ON THE WAY!

EXPERIENCE THE BEST!

Lone Star is very pleased to announce our third store location in the Dallas-Ft. Worth area. Lone Star's Town East Mall location will extend Lone Star's exceptional selection and service to yet another part of the metroplex. You'll find everything you've come to expect from Lone Star, plus the convenience of mall shopping

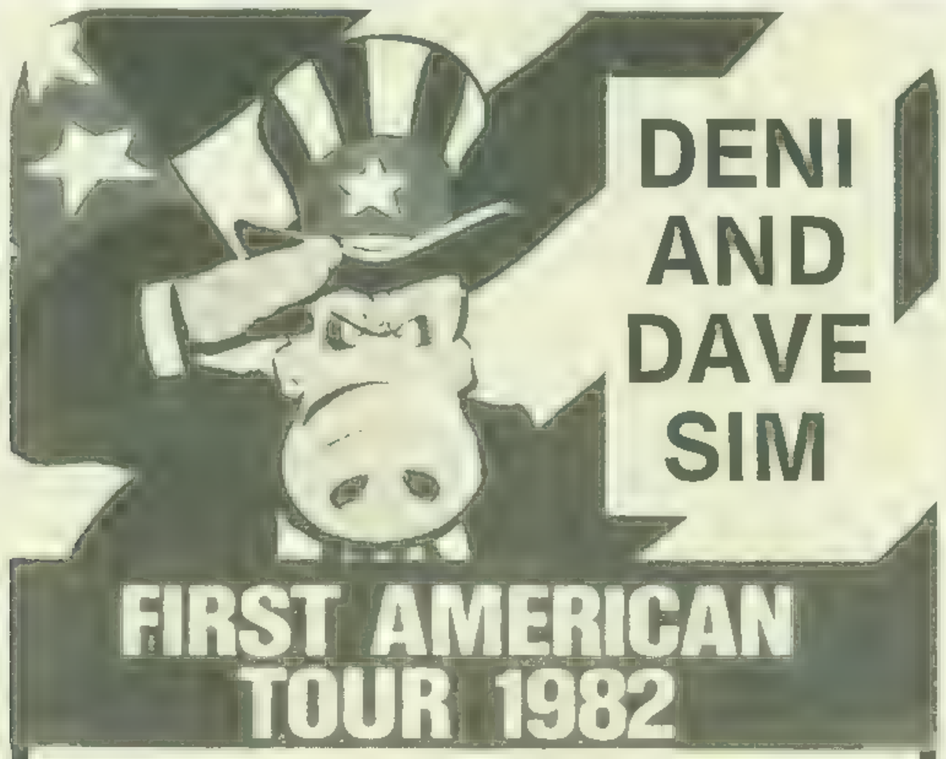
Please check with our Arlington or Forest Lane store for exact opening date. To get to our Town East store, come in the mall's west entrance. You'll walk right into us! We're in the lower central section

COMING IN
NOVEMBER!

511 E. Abram, Arlington, Texas 76010 • Phone 265-0491
STORE HOURS: Mon.-Sat. 10-7; Fri. 'til 8; Sun. 12-6
3 Blocks west of Collins (Hwy. 157)

Town East Mall, Mesquite, Texas
STORE HOURS: Mon.-Sat. 10AM to 9PM
Opening in November

7738 Forest Lane, Dallas, Texas 75230 • Phone 373-0934
STORE HOURS: Mon.-Fri. 11-7; Fri. 'til 8; Sat. 10-7; Sun. 12-6
Just 2 blocks west of North Central Expressway



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Sunday, Oct. 17, Noon to 6PM

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NOTE: Dave and Deni Sim will be appearing only at the two Lone Star locations listed above. All other previously scheduled Dallas-Ft. Worth area appearances have been cancelled.

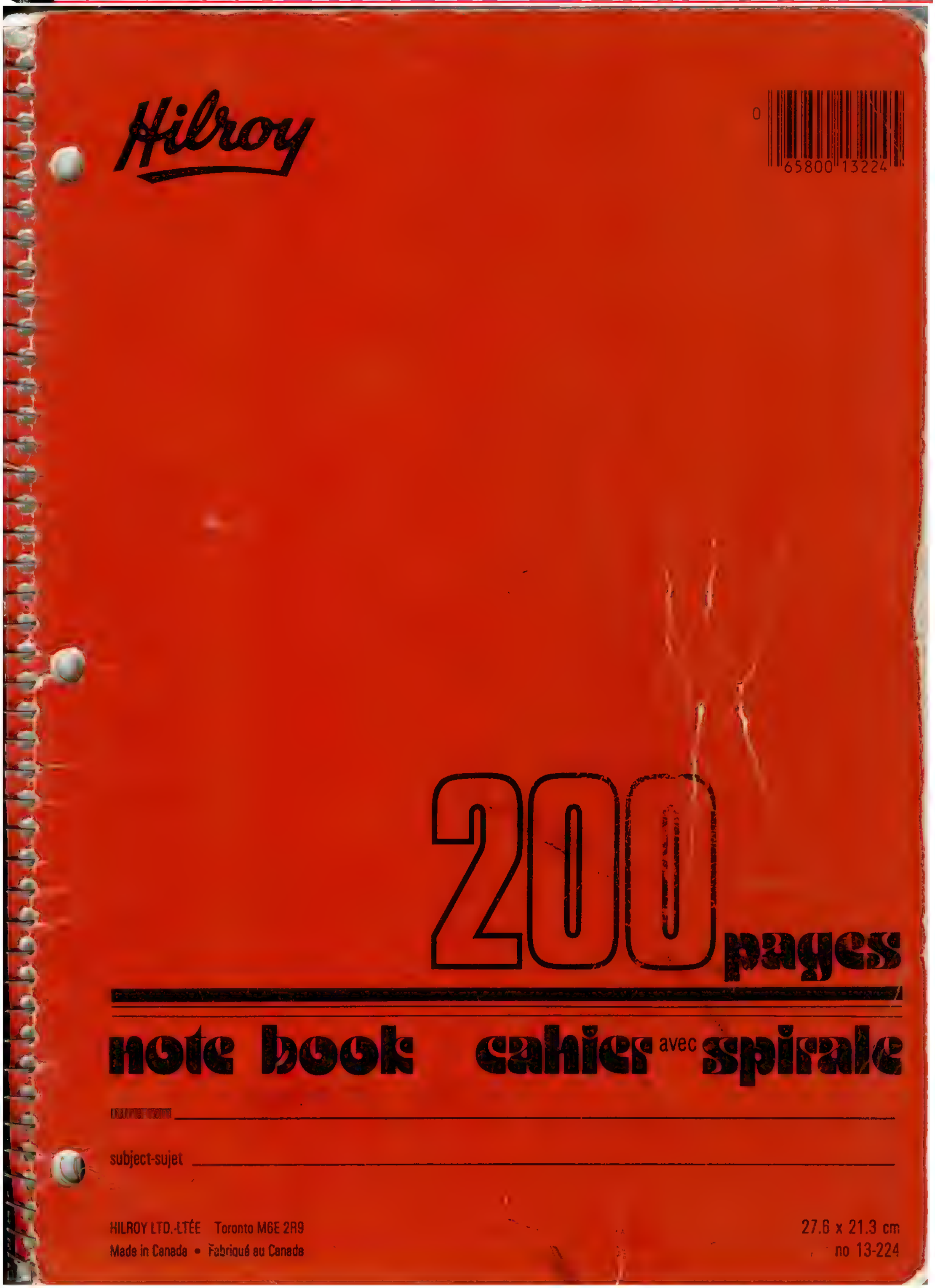
FREE CEREBUS POSTER!

CEREBUS

ARCHIVE

NOTEBOOKS

"Albatross Too"



I began using notebooks to plot CEREBUS beginning with issue 20. I called the notebook my "albatross" since it was always with me, a constant reminder of work I had to do. Plotting for HIGH SOCIETY began on page 135 of the 200-page "Albatross One" (although much plotting of the various political factions takes place on the earlier pages and on – now long gone – scraps of paper).

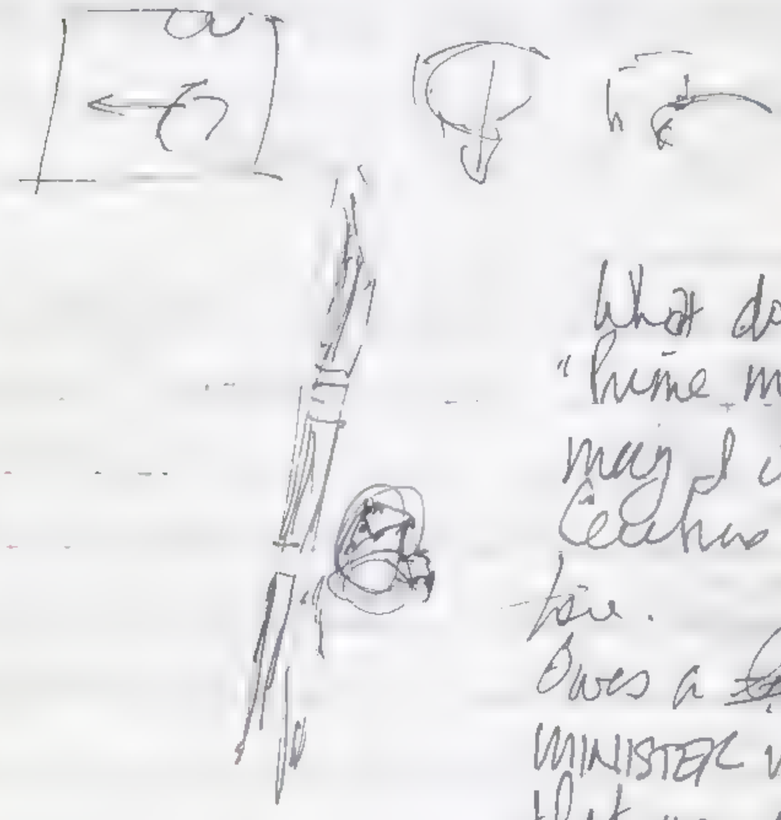
Cerebus No. 32 (November 1981) "Alliances"

PAGE ONE -

Cerebus getting the knock at the door.

"What should Cerebus do?"

~~Knock him~~"



What do you want?

"Prime minister's office

may I come in.

Cerebus can hear you just fine from there.

Does a ~~Lord Chancellor~~ PRIME MINISTER needs to discuss money that you owe. While it is not standard practice. to discuss financial arrangements with the ranking leader of another government. ~~duke or~~ ~~earl~~, the extraordinary representative nature of the situation demands that certain conventions must be bypassed in favour of expeditious resolution of the problem at hand.

(2) will turn over funds to the prime minister only. Has to lie down

if Cerebus could only get his hands on that...

(3) You -- big fight evenly matched. She bounces a coin off her head.

(4) Screaming you're in shit and I'm the only one ~~at the bottom~~ end

they want the bail more grand or they're going to throw you in the church...

HSANB 1/32 - "What do you want?'

"Prime Minister's Office. May I come in?"

"Cerebus can hear you just fine from there."

I wish I would have used that, even though page one has a lot of word balloons on it as it is.

continued...

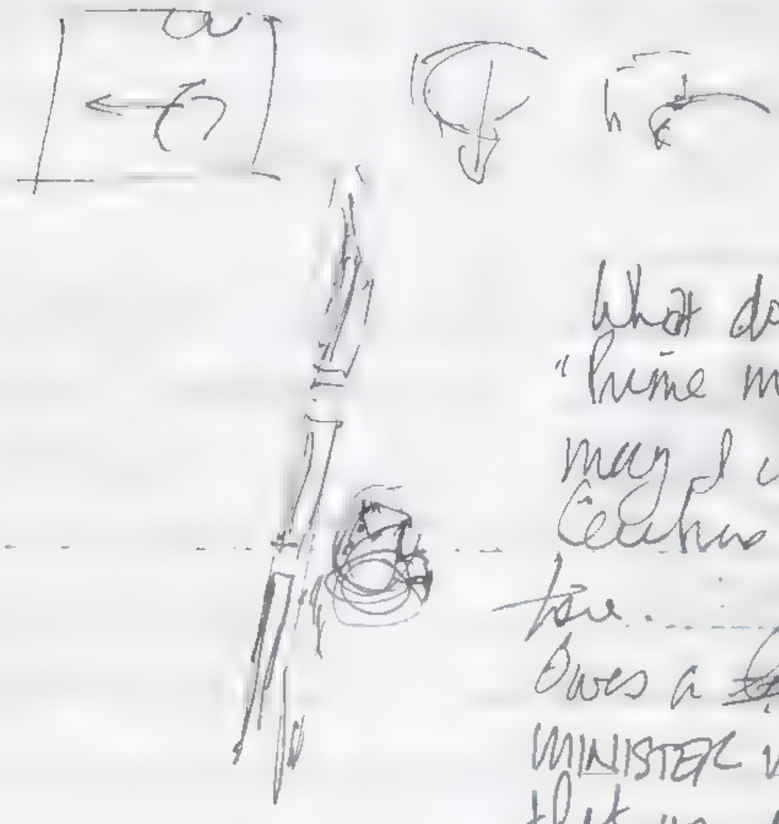
Cerebus No. 32 (November 1981) "Alliances"

PAGE ONE -

Cerebus getting the knock at the door.

"What should Cerebus do?"

~~Answer him~~"



What do you want?

"Prime Minister's office

may I come in.

Cerebus can hear your fine for a

fee.

Does a ~~Lord Chancellor~~ PRIME

MINISTER wish to discuss money

that you owe. While it is not

standard practice to discuss

financial arrangements with the

ranking leader of another government.

dreadnoth ~~with you~~, the extraordinary

representative nature of the situation demands

that certain concessions must be by passed

in favour of expeditious resolution of

the problem at hand.

(2) will turn over funds

to the prime minister

only. Has to lie down

if Cerebus could only get

his hands on that...

(3) You -- big fight evenly matched.

She bounces a vase off his

head.

(4) Screaming you're in shit and I'm the only one

Yes, the bottom

line

they want the full price pound

or they're going to throw you

you in the church...

In the bottom left, I'm working out the fight with the Bug "Big fight evenly matched. She bounces a vase off his head, Screaming 'You're in s–t, and I'm the only one.'"
Unfinished because I recognized that it was out of character for Astoria.

who can get you out.
tell him to charge a duntax on all goods leaving
PAGE 5 ~~TEST~~ for TEST. Tell him ~~to~~ to add a three per
cent charge. It will remain in effect until the
debt is paid. ~~Explains a man to him after it~~
~~works. So what's the deal here You have power I can~~
~~turn that power into money~~
tries it out. Very good, m'lord. We shant trouble
you again.
PAGE 6 It worked.
Of course it worked
That's it. Cerebus doesn't
owe anybody.
If that lets you only
debt you're a free...
man.
(Use this for doing the Grail suspicions)
END PAGE 6 Pressed panel
I can help you, Cerebus, but you must
give me time.

END PAGE 7
~~I~~ I've helped you far
more than anyone has
helped you. It's now key
getting that debt off
your back....

you are debt free.
that's all you can ask for.

PAGE 8 COMPOSITE PAGE CEREBUS WOMAN BEHIND THE MAN.
I want this heckroom as payment. I need a place to stay that's safe. I'll help you as much as I can.
but right now, Artemis and I need some sleep

#36 Jaka: "Did you really say "~~Inquisitor~~ The Grand Inquisitor has what he deserves and the Church has what it sought"!

END PAGE 4

~~Ready to record bathroom~~
~~Give it to me next~~
~~will help~~ you.
All right sister, let's have it.
Cerebus wants to know, one, exactly what ~~the~~ rat heckroom is doing there
two how you come to know so much about it
three...
COOK, ARCHIVATOR I DON'T THINK YOU UNDERSTAND. YOU NEED ME MORE THAN I NEED YOU.
YOU'VE BEEN SLUMBERING AROUND IN DEBT LIKE AN INFANT AT A GROWN-UP'S DINNER PARTY.

HSANB 2/32 - Already thinking ahead to No.36 and "The Night Before" although it's a line I didn't use:
JAKA: Did you really say "The Grand Inquisitor has what he deserves and the Church has what it sought"?

continued...

who can get you out.
tell him to charge a custom on all goods leaving
PAGE 5 ~~TEST~~ for TEST. Tell him ~~to~~ to add a three per
cent charge. It will remain in effect until the
debt is paid. ~~Explain a man to him after it~~
~~works. So what's the deal here You have power I can~~
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(Use this for doing the facial suspicions)
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END PAGE (7)
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END PAGE (4)

~~Ready to record bathroom~~
~~Give it to me next~~
~~will help~~ you.
All right sister, let's have it.
Cerebus wants to know, one, exactly what ~~this~~ that heckroom is place, doing there
two how you came to know so much about it
three...
COOK, AARDVARK I DON'T THINK YOU UNDERSTAND. YOU NEED ME MORE THAN I NEED YOU.
YOU'VE BEEN STUMBLING AROUND IN HERE LIKE AN INFANT AT A GROWN-UP'S DINNER PARTY.

Also, "YOU'VE BEEN STUMBLING AROUND IN HERE LIKE AN INFANT AT A GROWN-UP'S DINNER PARTY" is a good line but, again, out of character for Astoria (who I was still getting used to). Giving Cerebus a fixed number of questions he was allowed to ask was more her style. The fact that he accepted the limit without question meant she already had more than sufficient control over him.

I ~~CAN SMELL YOU NOW I'D~~
~~MOST A KNIFE AND FORK~~
I KNOW OF TWO ESPECIALLY
BRIGHT CHIMNEYSWEEPS WHO
WOULD ALREADY HAVE MADE
A HALF MILLION CROWNS IF
THEY WERE IN YOUR
PLACE...

I'LL GUIDE YOU AROUND
BY THE NOSE TOMORROW
AND FIND YOU MORE
MONEY THAN YOU EVER
DREAMED EXISTED
TOMORROW

BUT LET ME MAKE
ONE THING CLEAR, MRS
RANKING DIPLOMATIC
~~REPRESENTATIVE~~...

"I'M - IN - CHARGE."

YOU'RE JUST
SAYING THAT
BECAUSE YOU
THINK YOU'RE
SOO HOT!

HSSSSS

PAGE (9)
CEREBUS TALKED TO DEATH WITH
THE WAY THINGS ARE GOING ELF IS TRYING TO GET ACROSS
THAT THIS IS A VERY DANGEROUS INFECTION. IT HAS TO
BE STAMPED OUT. - DESTROY

HSANB 3/32 - A big problem with her asserting control by yelling is that she would be embarrassing him in front of the Moon Roach which would make him resistant to anything she wanted him to do.

continued...

I ~~CAN SHOW YOU HOW TO~~
~~HOLD A KNIFE AND FORK,~~
I KNOW OF TWO ESPECIALLY
BRIGHT CHIMNEYSWEEPS WHO
WOULD ALREADY HAVE MADE
A HALF MILLION CROWNS IF
THEY WERE IN YOUR
PLACE...

I'LL GUIDE YOU AROUND
BY THE NOSE TOMORROW
AND FIND YOU MORE
MONEY THAN YOU EVER
DREAMED EXISTED
TOMORROW

BUT LET ME MAKE
ONE THING CLEAR, MR.
RANKING DIPLOMATIC
~~REPRESENTATIVE~~...

"I'M - IN - CHARGE."

HSSSSS

YOU'RE JUST
SAYING THAT
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THE WAY THINGS ARE GOING ELF IS TRYING TO GET ACROSS
THAT THIS IS A VERY DANGEROUS INFECTION. IT WAS TO
BE STAMPED OUT. - DESTROYED

"You're just saying that because you think you're so hot." Wendy Pini told me that she came up to the table where I was sketching at the Philadelphia Comic Con right after she and Richard had done their ELFQUEST slide show and she had paid me a compliment and maintained that that was exactly what I said to her. Which I couldn't picture doing at the time and I still can't picture to this day. I decided to work it into the story as Cerebus' inner magnifier quality bubbling over and him unaware of it.

PAGE ① CEREBUS AFRAID TO ANSWER THE DOOR
~~WHO GIVE IT ORDER TO THE PRIME MINISTOR~~
GIBBER GIBBER WHAT'S THE BOTTOM LINE?
IF YOU DON'T SEND OVER THE CONTRACT..
THEY'RE GOING TO THROW YOU TO THE
CHURCH AND WRITE IT OFF AS A TAX
LOSS

② CEREBUS WILL HAVE A DECISION BY SUNDOWN.
THE PRIME MINISTER IS WAITING DOWNSTAIRS ~~WILL NOT BE HAPPY~~, BUT
I AM NOT AUTHORIZED TO MAKE UNLIMITED CONCESSIONS
~~AT SUNDOWN THEN, SIR~~ I WILL HAVE A MESSAGE SENT TO HIS OFFICE. WE'LL HAVE AN ANSWER WITHIN THE HOUR

③ WOW! WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO?
HOW? IF YOU GIVE THEM THE CONTRACT, THE CHURCH WILL HAVE YOU ON THE RACK BEFORE YOU CAN SAY "LORD TARIM PRESERVER OF ALL FLESH!"
ON THE OTHER HAND IF YOU DON'T GIVE THEM THE CONTRACT YOU'RE BACK TO ASKING YOU STACKED, WAITING TO FIND TWELVE THOUSAND CROWNS ~~WHICH~~ WHICH YOU HAVEN'T ORDER ONE OR HOW TO GET.
YOU'RE REALLY IN TROUBLE AREN'T YOU.

HOW HOW
YES... YES
CEREBUS IS IN SOME DIFFICULTY

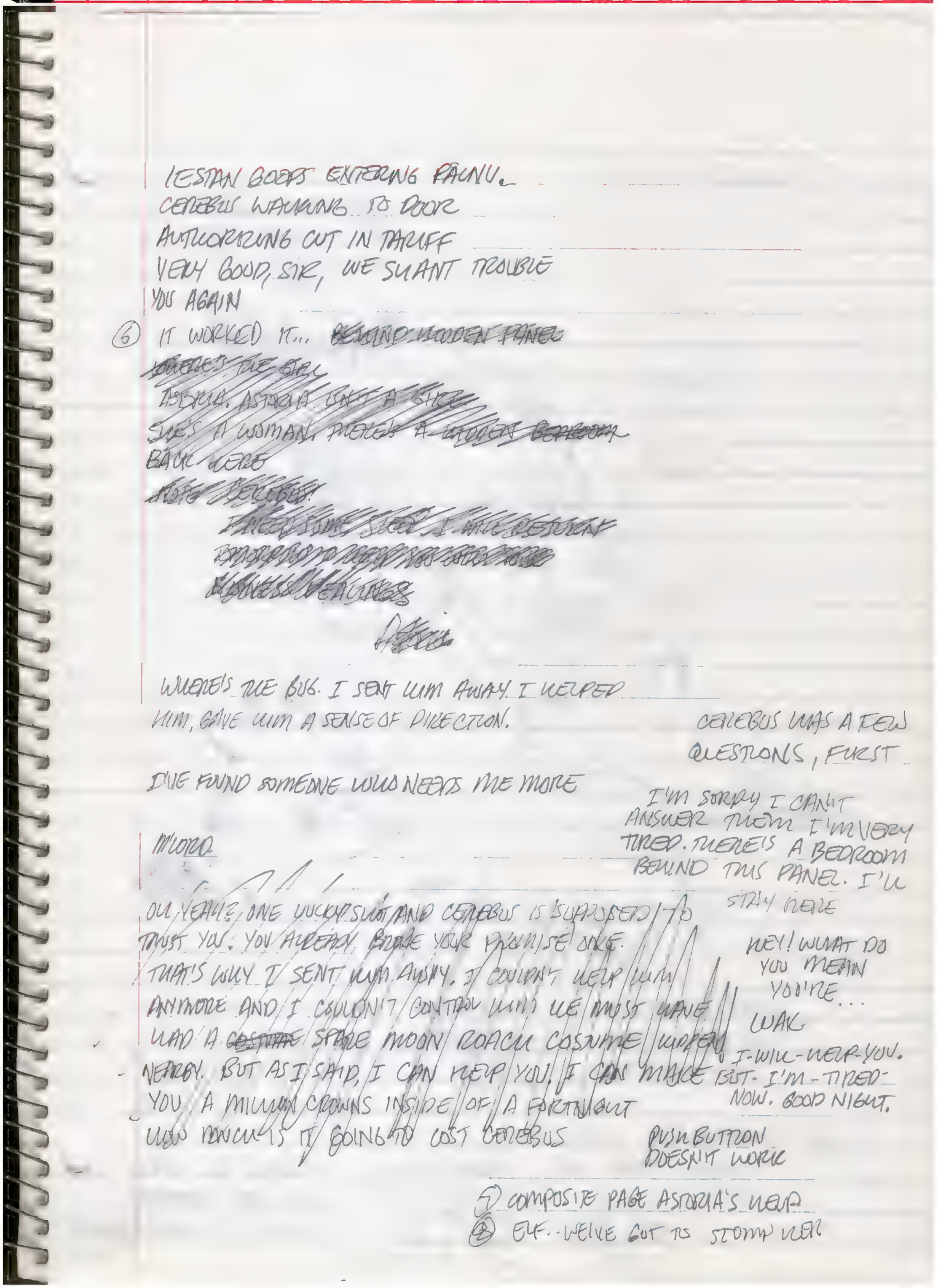
IF YOU COULD RUN ALONG, CEREBUS NEEDS SOME TIME TO THINK...

SURE

CEREBUS WAS TO KEEP CALM... THINGS HAVE TO BE DEALT WITH..

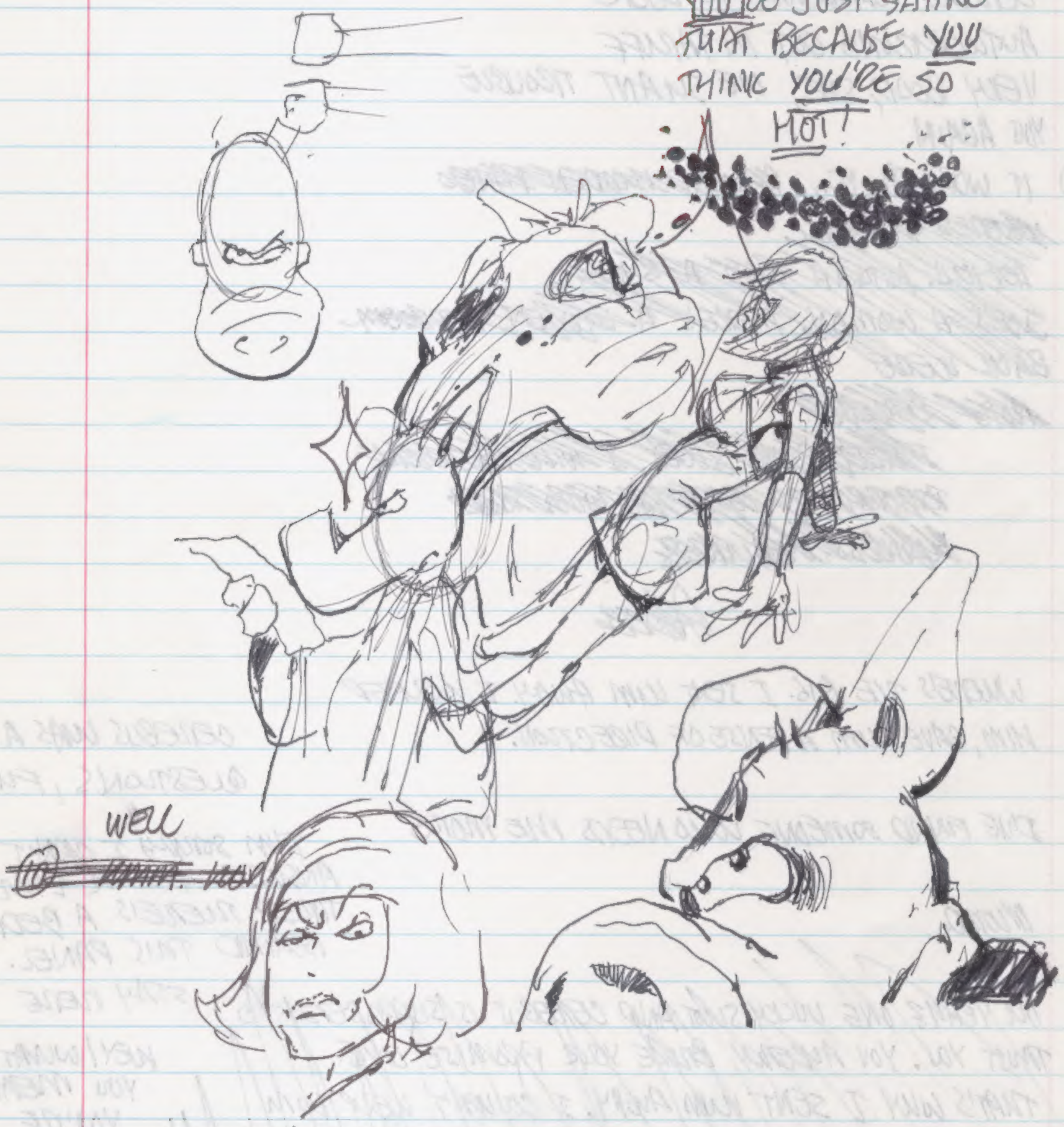
③ YOU! BIG FIGHT.
④ ASTORIA FINALLY STOPS IT. THIS IS NOT ACCOMPLISHING ANYTHING - YOU KNOW WHO THIS IS? THAT'S A REP FROM THE PIG... AND HE WANTS TWELVE THOUSAND CROWNS THAT CEREBUS DOESN'T HAVE, TELL THEM YOU'RE AUTHORIZING A
⑤ THREE PER CENT CUT IN THE TARIFF'S CHARGED ON

HSANB 4/32 - "Big Fight. Astoria finally stops it." And, as you can see in the story, she does so just by grabbing Cerebus' wrist and offering him a solution. Less Katherine Hepburn and more Mary Astor.


LESTAN BOOTS ENTERING PANU.
CEREBUS WALKING TO DOOR
AUTOCORRUPT CUT IN TARUFF
VERY GOOD, SIR, WE SHANT TROUBLE YOU AGAIN
6 IT WORKED IT...
WHERE'S THE BUG. I SENT HIM AWAY. I HELPED HIM, GAVE HIM A SENSE OF DIRECTION.
I'VE FOUND SOMEONE WHO NEEDS ME MORE
M'LORD.
OH, YEAH? ONE QUICK SHOT AND CEREBUS IS SUPPOSED TO TRUST YOU. YOU ALREADY BROKE YOUR PROMISE ONCE. THAT'S WHY I SENT HIM AWAY. I COULDN'T HELP HIM ANYMORE AND I COULDN'T CONTROL HIM. WE MUST HAVE HAD A SPARE MOON ROACH COSTUME HIDDEN NEARBY. BUT AS I SAID, I CAN HELP YOU. I CAN MAKE YOU A MILLION CROWNS INSIDE OF A FORTNIGHT WHEN REVENUES IT GOING TO COST CEREBUS
CEREBUS HAS A FEW QUESTIONS, FIRST
I'M SORRY I CAN'T ANSWER THEM I'M VERY TIRED. THERE'S A BEDROOM BEHIND THIS PANEL. I'LL STAY HERE
HEY! WHAT DO YOU MEAN YOU'RE...
WAK
I-WILL-HEAR-YOU. BUT-I'M-TIRED- NOW. GOOD NIGHT.
PUSH BUTTON DOESN'T WORK
5 COMPOSITE PAGE ASTORIA'S HEAD
6 ELF.-WE'VE GOT TO STOMP HER

HSANB 5/32 - Astoria was doing better than I was: I had no idea where I was going next with this.

(9) CEREBUS ANGRY



MAYBE CEREBUS SHOULD'VE LOOKED MORE INTERESTED

ELVES GET OFFENDED PRETTY EASILY.

(10) SOMETHING BAD IS GOING TO HAPPEN CEREBUS CAN'T FEEL IT

LAST TIME CEREBUS OFFENDED AN ELF...

ASTORIA TRYING TO TALK BUSINESS ABOUT GUY WHO WANTS TO BUBBLE WRAP TAKEOVER BID

PACKAGE FOR RIPROP FROM [redacted] EDMONDS & LEISTER-[redacted] FRANK

HSANB 6/32 - The "getting mad at an Elf" panel. I was having trouble figuring out their relative heights.

EDMONDS, LORD FRASER
MUST BE SOME NEW. E... L...

(11) THROWS IT IN THE FIRE
WHAT ARE YOU DOING? NARCS. WE HAD
A REPORT OF A SMALL PACKAGE
CLICK ~~CLACK~~ CLACK INVESTIGATING OFFICERS
FOR SEVEN MINUTES LATER ~~YES SIR~~
SMASH ASTORIA, DEAR
WHY DON'T YOU
STIR THE FIRE
YES. YES,
OF COURSE

A REPORT TENDERED
TO THE ~~DOOR~~ PAPAL
OFFICE OF ILLICIT
SUBSTANCES
IMMEDIATELY INVOLVES
[redacted]
PREEMPTS ALL
OTHER AUTHORITY
ANSWERS
MAY

BGSX: SMASH
SPARK SMASH
SMASH.

(12) ~~WE NEVER BEEN~~
~~BOUND~~ WELL IT SEEMS
YOU CAN TAKE CARE OF
YOURSELF

HOW'D YOU KNOW
IT ~~WAS~~ CONTAINED
ILLICIT SU
HMM?

~~JUST A BOOK~~

CEREBUS WAS EXPECTING
SOME TROUBLE.

PERFECT OPENING SHOT FOR
AN ELF. CEREBUS REALIZES
HIS VULNERABILITY. HIS
REPUTATION IS HIS FORTUNE
IN THIS

BLESSED BE THE LIVING TARIM
AND HIS ~~GIVE~~ GIFTS
EVERLASTING.

HSANB 7/32 - I liked the Astoria "stirring the fire" bit because it was so exaggerated with the size of the sound effects, the sound effects themselves and the visual results in the subsequent panel – that's quite a thorough job of "stirring". It's a delicate storytelling balancing act. Obviously if she had done it THAT enthusiastically it would have attracted the Priests' attentions. But if you were in that situation, you would perceive yourself as making that much noise... *continued...*

EDMONDS, LORD FRASER
MUST BE SOME NEW. E... L...

(11) THROWS IT IN THE FIRE
WHAT ARE YOU DOING? NARCS. WE HAD
A REPORT OF A SMALL PACKAGE
CLICK ~~CLACK~~ CLACK INVESTIGATING OFFICERS
FOR SEVEN MINUTES LATER ~~YOU ARE~~
SMASH

ASTORIA, DEAR
WHY DON'T YOU
STIR THE FIRE
YES. YES,
OF COURSE

A REPORT TENDERED
TO THE ~~OUR~~ PAPAL
OFFICE OF ILLICIT
SUBSTANCES
IMMEDIATELY (NVOLVES
[redacted]
PREEMPTS ALL
OTHER AUTHORITY
ANSWERS
MAY

BOSX: SMASH
SPARK SMASH
SMASH

(12) ~~SAFE NEVER BEEN~~
~~BEHIND~~ WELL IT SEEMS
YOU CAN TAKE CARE OF
YOURSELF

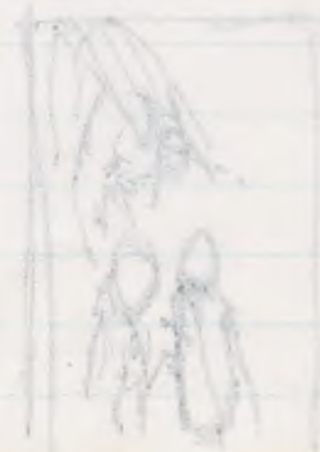
HOW'D YOU KNOW
IT ~~WAS~~ CONTAINED
ILLICIT SU
HUM?

~~JUST A FEVERISH~~

CEREBUS WAS EXPECTING
SOME TROUBLE.

PERFECT OPENING SHOT FOR
AN ELF. CEREBUS REALIZES
HIS VULNERABILITY. HIS
REPUTATION IS HIS FORTUNE
IN THIS

BLESSED BE THE LIVING TARUM
AND HIS ~~GIVE~~ GIFTS
EVERLASTING.



...while you were trying not to because of the adrenalin rush. It's something you can really only get away with in comics. The rest of the issue was improvised off of Astoria trying to seduce Cerebus and was pretty easy to write. Except for Cerebus' intro line which is one of those clunkers that always jumps out at me. "It was an accident. Try not to get upset." It was just completely out of character for Cerebus in the situation. He wouldn't notice if someone else was upset nor would he be worried if they were upset if he did notice. It wasn't an accident, but what was it? "That was a close one." I rewrote it a bunch of times but I could never "get" what Cerebus would say to Astoria as she slumped against him after the door closed. And then I realized it really didn't matter. Likewise with "Just try to relax, Astoria". Out of character but "If I relax any more, I'll start DROOLING" is such a good laugh line you don't notice.

DAVE SIM
CEREBUS
DAVE SIM
HIGH SOCIETY
church tate
church tate
JAKA STORY
MELMOTH
FLIGHT
WOMEN
READS
MINDS
GUYS
RICK'S STORY
GOING HOME
FARM VOID
CUTTER DAYS
THE LAST DAY